



Women's hockey picks up the pace/ Page 31

After a rough start to the season, the Friars net three wins in the past two weeks—against BC, BU, and Niagara

Over there . . . stories from students abroad/ Page 24

PC's own 'foreign correspondents' bid adeiu to Europe and get ready to come back to Rhode Island



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DECEMBER 7, 2006

Beloved Friar dies Monday

By KRISTINA H. REARDON '08
ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Known as "Fabe" to his friends and brethren, Rev. John F. Cunningham, O.P. '50 was known for his quick wit, encouraging and sympathetic teaching style, and dedication to multiculturalism on campus. Serving as the 10th president of Providence College from 1985 to 1994, Father Cunningham was also a philosophy professor who taught classes here at the College until late this semester, just weeks before his death on Monday, Dec. 4, at age 78.

"He loved teaching and kept at it right to the end," said Dr. Richard Grace, professor of history, who was both a student and colleague of Father Cunningham's.

In addition to serving as president in the late '80s and early '90s, Father Cunningham served as co-founder, assistant director, and director of the Liberal Arts Honors Program. He was also instrumental in the formation of the Development of Western Civilization Program, and served as dean of undergraduate studies, first president of the Faculty Senate, and founder of the Southeast Asian Scholarship Program in 1985.

While Father Cunningham served the College in many more administrative positions, it is as a caring professor that his colleagues and students remember him best.

"He also took a personal interest in each of the students," said Monique Teves '07, who was in his Current Problems in Ethics class this semester. "As a music lover, he came to a student performance hour where myself and another classmate performed. I sang Mozart, and the next day in class he came in with a Mozart CD for me to borrow."

Cassandra Tavares '07 said that when she had Father Cunningham for the same class in the spring of 2006, "he was always interested in listening to what you had to say. He didn't want to dictate to you what he wanted you to think."

"He was such an open person," Tavares said. "He didn't want to judge."

In addition to being a caring and sympathetic professor, Grace said he remembers Father Cunningham's "playful sort of humor."

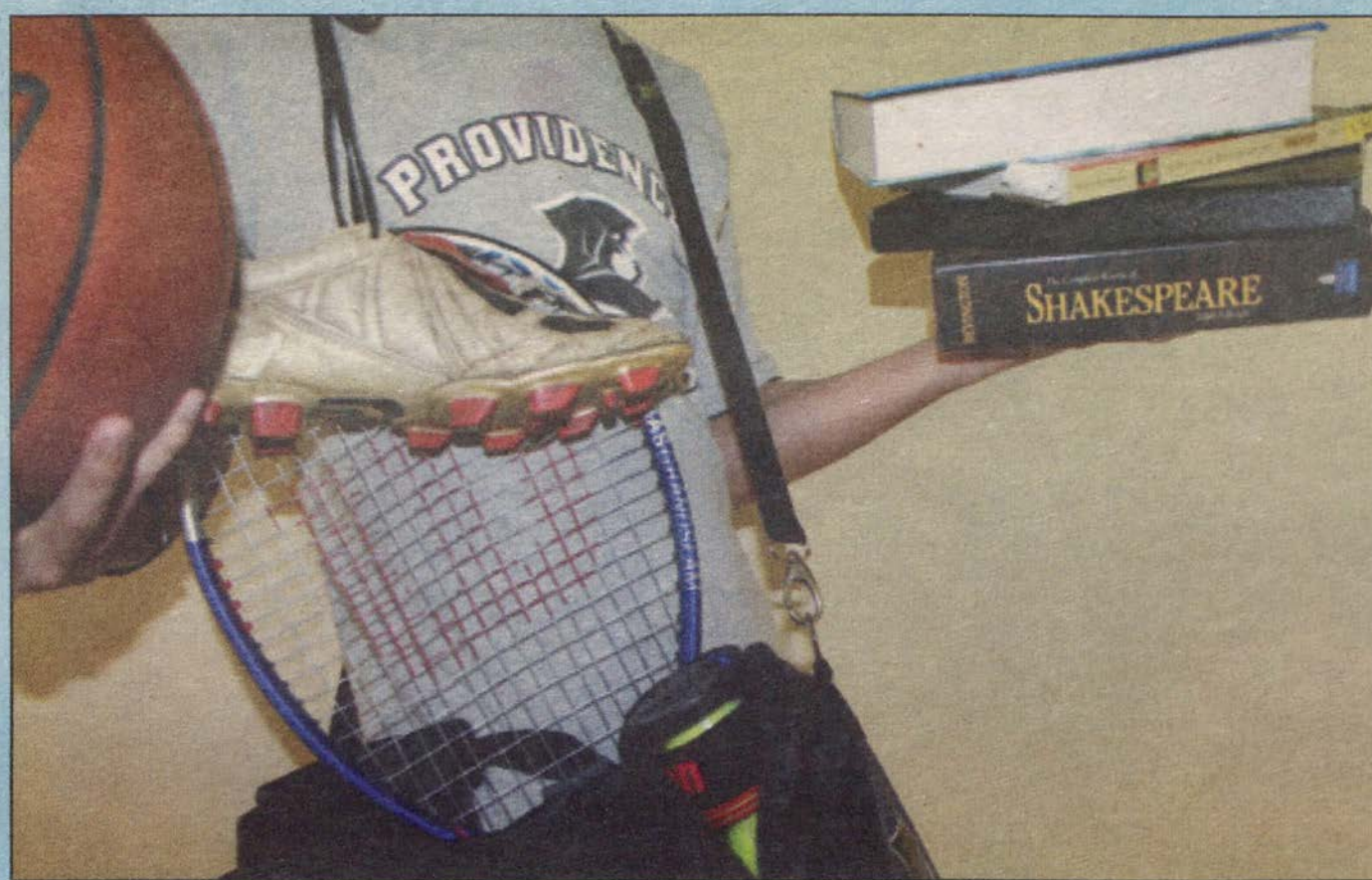
"He was a great raconteur, and had a wonderful bag of stories to sprinkle in his classes or to entertain people at dinner," he said.

As an undergraduate, Grace was in several of Father Cunningham's honors classes.

"He taught me a new meaning of the word 'pedestrian' because he wrote it on so many of my papers," said Grace. "He didn't mean it in a nasty way. He just meant, 'You can do better than this.'"

"It became a joke among the students," Grace reminisced fondly. "He was my

CUNNINGHAM/Page 2



MARY PELLETIER '09/The Cowl

Four of the five top-paying jobs at PC are associated with athletics. The college community debates whether this is a necessary evil or if academics is being given the short end of the stick.

It doesn't grow on trees

Tuition dollars make up the majority of PC's revenue. But what are students financing?

By BETH FINAN '07
NEWS STAFF

The next time you turn your heat on or the next time Physical Plant comes to fix your leaky faucet, remember where the money comes from to do it: your tuition dollars. According to

CAMPUS NEWS GuideStar.org—which supplies public information about schools and non-profits—in 2005, Providence College

took in more than \$93 million dollars in tuition and fees and more than \$16 million dollars in room and board payments, which are the primary way the College pays for its day-to-day expenses.

Although many students may not realize it, everything on campus—from the lawn mowing outside the residence hall windows to the teaching in the classroom to the coaching on the basketball court—is funded by students' tuition dollars.

"The bulk of our revenue comes from

tuition, room, and board," said Michael Frazier vice president and chief financial officer of Finance and Business said. "We live on it."

Frazier said that the school does not have separate accounts, meaning that all of the revenue the College takes in—such as tuition, fees, room and board, and even athletic revenue—is put into one account from which the school pays its bills. Therefore, Men's Head Basketball Coach

TUITION/Page 6

Hazing seminar garners mixed reactions

By JOE MILLER '10
NEWS STAFF

When Judge Mitch Crane took the floor in '64 Hall the night of Monday, Nov. 27 to discuss hazing and its consequences, the result was a little more—and a little less—than most people bargained for.

CAMPUS EVENT While Crane, a practicing attorney and member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity Board of Governors, was able to grab the attention of those present with his lively style, many felt that his presentation was marred by his questionable style of humor, which was on display throughout the event.

The lecture was hosted by the Board of Programers as part of an ongoing series of events on hazing. According to Rev. Brendan Murphy, O.P., vice president of student services, BOP was required to host an event that would educate the student body on hazing and its effects "as a result of a disciplinary matter last semester."

In addition, every club and organization on campus was asked to have at least one representative in attendance.

Crane began his speech by addressing the perception that hazing is a widespread and perhaps natural part of most organizations, especially fraternities and sororities. "The average person, they read this stuff in the newspaper and condemn every one of us," he said. "These are isolated incidents, and people are turning against all of us."

He referenced recent hazing scandals at Florida A&M University and Duke University as examples of incidents that have contributed to this opinion.

Although many hazing activities are defended as important parts of an organization's tradition, Crane said he strongly believes that this is no excuse for such behavior to occur.

"It was a tradition, it was harmless, and nothing ever happens. But sometimes it does," he asserted. "The most unimaginable things happen—because it's a tradition."

Referring to initiation practices, Crane argued that "what you make people do is no proof of how they're going to be" once they are in the group; it indicates "only what they will do to get in."

He also demonstrated that hazing can

often begin as a positive activity, using an example from a University of Rhode Island fraternity to illustrate. The fraternity began a tradition of new pledges and existing members helping each other do pushups as a sign of unity. Unfortunately, this virtually harmless practice developed into a rite of passage in which pledges were forced to do pushups naked in an icy stream.

"Then we add alcohol, and we have tragedy," Crane said. "We don't know our limits; we don't know how safe we are."

He emphasized the drastic differences between fictional portrayals of these activities and their real-life counterparts.

"In the movies, you sleep it off. In the movies, you wake up with a hangover," he said. "I'm not going to tell you that every time you're going to die, but sometimes you do."

To eliminate the occurrence of hazing, Crane encouraged group leaders to be explicit in sharing initiation requirements with new members. "Tell people before they come into an organization what will

HAZING/Page 3

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Cunningham: College mourns Friar's passing

continued from front page

friend, but beyond that bond, I genuinely admired the man."

Despite his failing health over the last few years, Father Cunningham continued teaching.

"After a year's sabbatical, he returned to the philosophy department for the last 10 years, always teaching at least one course per semester," said Dr. Vance Morgan, professor of philosophy and chair of the department. "Even when he was no longer mobile enough to get to classroom buildings, he taught a section of his favorite course, Current Problems in Ethics, every semester in the priory."

"He was always vitally interested in what was happening in the philosophy department," Morgan said, "[and] even when it

became difficult for him to regularly attend meetings, he always called me to be updated on what had happened."

During his tenure as president, Father Cunningham saw the first Black History Month Banquet held in 1989.

"The work Father Cunningham has done to improve race relations and provide opportunities for others to receive a quality education is immeasurable," said Dr. Edward Twyman, dean of the Balfour Center for Multicultural Affairs, which administers the Cunningham Southeast Asian Scholarship.

"Although his death is a sad loss, he will always remain very much alive in the memories of those he loved, respected, and supported with the Cunningham scholarship," Twyman said.

Also during his tenure as president, Father Cunningham saw the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation donate \$5 million to develop a community and public service major—the first of its kind in the country.

Besides serving at Providence College, Father Cunningham was a member of the Province of St. Joseph Provincial Council and served as vicar provincial of the Province of St. Joseph and socius to the provincial at St. Vincent Ferrer Priory in New York.

"He was a good priest," Grace said, "and his homilies were filled with substance."

He loved the theater, and was active in several dramatic presentations on campus.

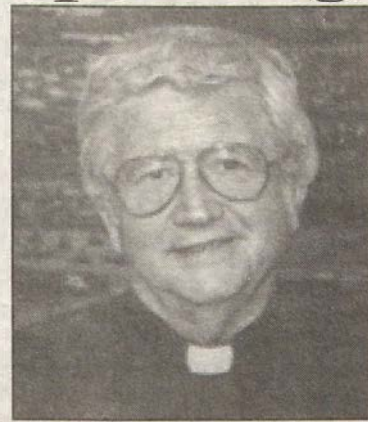
"His most memorable role, about 30 years ago, was that of Sheridan Whiteside, the cur-

mudgeon in the ... comedy 'The Man Who Came to Dinner,'" Grace said. "He took to the role with such gusto that he was the veritable reincarnation of Monty Woolley who played the part in the movie."

"For years afterwards, when he was living at St. Vincent's in New York, when he wrote to me, he would sign his letters 'Whiteside,'" Grace said.

Despite the fact that Father Cunningham is no longer present in flesh with the Providence College community, his influence and spirit will live on, most tangibly in the Cunningham Southeast Asian Scholarship and through the apartment hall complex named in his honor, Cunningham Hall.

Added Grace: "His legacy is more quiet than flashy. With



Rev. John F. Cunningham, O.P.

things like the Southeast Asian scholarship program, with much that he did to contribute to the intellectual tone of the College... it's that sort of things people will remember him for."

CAMPUS

CALENDAR

December 8 to 14

8 Friday	9 Saturday	10 Sunday	11 Monday	12 Tuesday	13 Wednesday	14 Thursday
<p>2:30 p.m. Dean of International Studies open forum in Moore Hall III</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Jazz Concert in McPhail's</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Providence College Irish Dance show in Smith Center.</p>	<p>7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. Maine at Dunkin' Donuts Center</p>	<p>2:00 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. Fordham in Alumni Hall</p> <p>9:30 p.m. Figure Skating Club's Christmas Exhibition in Schneider Arena</p>	<p>2:30 p.m. Dean of International Studies open forum in Moore Hall III</p>	<p>7:00 p.m. BOP Coffeehouse in McPhail's</p>	<p>3:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Confession in St. Dominic's Chapel</p>	



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Accuracy Watch

The Cowl is committed to accuracy and carefully checks every article that goes into print to ensure that the facts are presented clearly and truthfully. If you find an error in any article, please e-mail the editor at thecowl@providence.edu. Corrections will be printed as necessary on page 2.

Correction: In the Nov. 16 issue of *The Cowl*, the date and issue number on the front page were incorrect. We apologize for the error.

Get the scoop!

Pick up an application and join the News Staff!

Your taste buds will love you.

And so will we.



Providence College Department of Theatre, Dance, and Film Spring 2007 Season

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead

by Tom Stoppard

Feb 2-4 & 9-11

Company

by Stephen Sondheim & George Furth

March 30-April 1 & April 13-15

Spring Dance Concert

April 28-29



Open Auditions for:

Company

Sunday Jan 21st

Angell Blackfriars Theatre

Open to all PC Students

Watch for more info about this audition to be posted in the Smith Center for the Arts

Are you on our active student list? This list will provide you with more details about this and other auditions.

Email us at blackfriars@providence.edu

and request to be added!

Presented by the Dept. of Theatre, Dance & Film. Want more info? John Garrity at x2219

Semester-long QUEST program wraps up

BY BETH LENEHAN '08
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

With this semester's QUEST program, PC students have joined the ranks of King Arthur and Monty Python's searches for the Holy Grail, Ponce de Leon's attempt to find the fountain of youth, and Martin Luther King Jr.'s pursuit for civil rights. QUEST (Quality, Unity, Excellence, Scholarship, Triumph) was the inter-dormitory battle designed by the Office of Residence Life paired male and female floors together in an attempt to earn points for a yet unrevealed prize.

"QUEST is a competition where students get points and build community. We feel QUEST is making an impact on freshmen students' lives—they are excited and feel welcomed into the PC community," said Dr. Steven Sears, dean of residence life.

According to Sears, QUEST was designed to be a pilot program to test student reaction and involvement.

"We started working on QUEST in spring 2006 and worked through the summer," Sears said. "Residence Life sat down as a team and tried to find ways to get students involved. We wanted something solid in place and wanted an event that would be ongoing." The program has "met and beat our expectations" he added.

Sears and McDermott Hall Director Nedzir Erilus were the two main executors behind the QUEST program. QUEST was partially inspired by other colleges who have dorm battles, but PC wanted to make its program unique, said Erilus.

"We wanted something that would encourage character building and would recognize the positive accomplishments," said Erilus, whose responsibilities included tracking the points. "Each word in the QUEST acronym describes the overall

experience."

From events such as a scavenger hunt, game board night, and Olympics, students (mainly freshmen and sophomores) could earn their team points, but could also gain them through individual accomplishments. Sears and Erilus stated if a student received a good grade on an exam, he or she could receive additional points.

"Some events are individual. We want to make sure students are well-rounded by the time they are juniors and seniors," said Sears.

Yet, Sears also pointed out teams could be penalized for negative issues as well. If vandalism occurred, that floor's team was notified of the point loss.

When assigning teams, Sears said Residence Life looked at the numbers and tried to balance the number of freshmen and sophomores on each team along with distance between the dorms. After the teams were assigned, the first event was

the scavenger hunt. Teams were supposed to pick a team name and design a coat of arms showing their team meaning, according to Sears. The events were well attended, and Residence Life was surprised by both the numbers and the enthusiasm, said Erilus.

"Board game night was around the time for midterms and approximately 450 students showed up. It was intense and there were tie breakers upon tie breakers," said Erilus. "The Olympics were phenomenally successful. We offered about 20 different events such as a mile run, mental challenges, pie-eating contests, and basketball. They were events where everyone could get involved."

"PC's community is like no other in the sense of pride students have of being at PC. QUEST participation showed the type of students we have—students yearning to

QUEST/Page 6

AIDS week offers on-campus HIV tests

BY RICK KURKER '09
NEWS STAFF

World AIDS Day was Friday, Dec. 1, and in acknowledgment of this day, SHEPARD (Stopping Homophobia, Eliminating Prejudice, and Restoring Dignity) sponsored a Mass and candlelight vigil as well as free HIV testing last week.

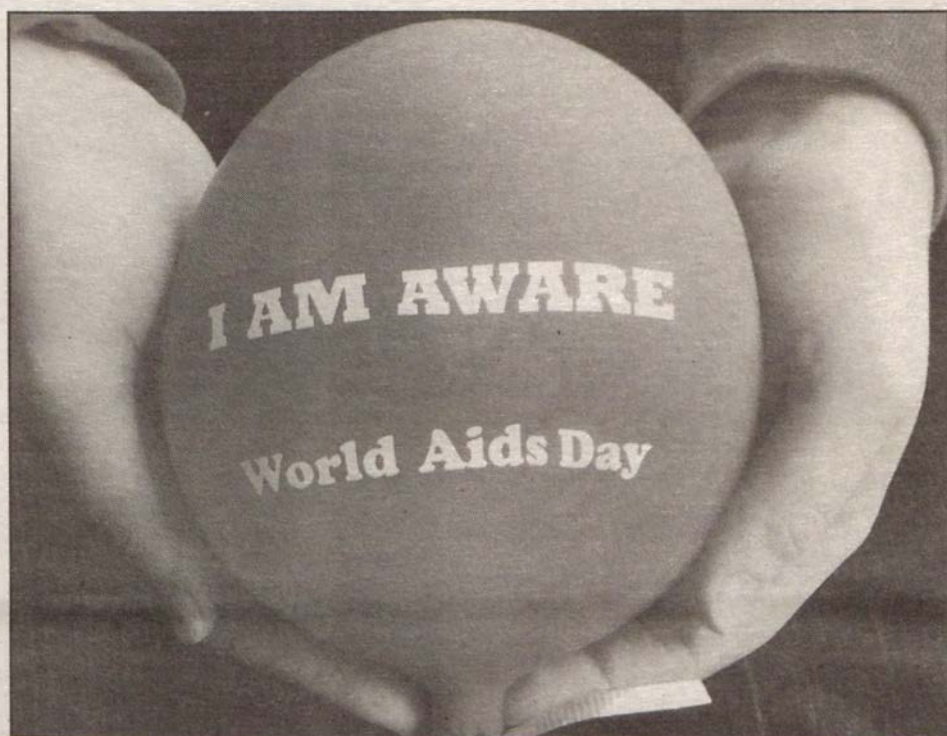
According to SHEPARD president Mike McClellan '07, HIV testing began when a past SHEPARD member who was also a public/community service major invited AIDS Care Ocean State (ACOS) to come in and provide free HIV testing as a part of her capstone project.

"This year, SHEPARD decided we'd try to continue the tradition to raise awareness about the need to get tested, so we asked ACOS to come back again," McClellan said.

The Mass and candlelight vigil, co-sponsored by Campus Ministry, took place on Wednesday, Nov. 29, at 9:00 p.m. in St. Dominic Chapel. HIV testing, co-sponsored by Women Will and Amnesty International, occurred on Thursday, Nov. 30, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Slavin Center '64 Hall.

Additionally, McClellan said that S.T.E.P. 1 (Students Together Educating Peers) handed out red balloons with information about HIV and AIDS on Friday, Dec 1. "Erase hate" wristbands from the Matthew Shepard Foundation were sold at each event to benefit SHEPARD, and jewelry made by African women was also sold by Amnesty International to benefit AIDS orphans.

McClellan said those who wanted to be



DENIELLE BALSARI '07/The

Balloons such as the one pictured above were given out on World AIDS Day last Friday to raise awareness of the pandemic.

tested met at in '64 Hall between the designated times on Thursday and then were taken to a club office to keep the testing confidential.

"They were given a screening quiz first to assess their risk for contracting HIV, and then they were given a test called Oral-

Quick in which the inside of their cheek is swabbed, and within 20 minutes they will have their results, which is great because they can know right away and no blood needs to be taken," McClellan said.

McClellan said that preparation for the event first involved getting permission to

hold the event and then booking the rooms.

"AIDS Care Ocean State provides the testing service to us totally free, but they did ask for donations if we were able to do any fundraising," he said. "It's great because they bring about four people to campus to provide the testing, so about 40 to 50 people can be tested throughout the afternoon."

LeeAnn Byrne '09, a member of SHEPARD, said she volunteered to help with the publicity of the World AIDS Week events.

"Like most members, I am also helping out and attending these events if my schedule permits," Byrne said. "It is very important for the club, or any club, that members take ownership and are active in events from planning to execution, even if they are not on the executive board."

"I think it is incredibly important for PC students to be educated about HIV/AIDS because it is a pandemic," she said. "It doesn't just affect homosexual men or people in sub-saharan Africa—it also affects our peers."

According to McClellan and Byrne, young people between the ages of 15 and 24 account for half of new HIV infections worldwide, which McClellan noted was about 6,000 new cases per day.

"I think we need to realize that it is our generation that is becoming infected at such an alarming rate and we need to take it upon ourselves to be educated and find ways to stop it," McClellan said. "Knowing your HIV status and ways to protect yourself are vital ways to stop the spread of the disease."

Hazing: Speaker had good message, bad delivery

continued from front page

be expected of them, what they'll have to do to prove themselves," These guidelines, he said, should not endanger anyone's physical or emotional health and should serve an educational purpose: "How does making someone drink a bottle of vodka make them a better player? It makes them a worse player and an alcoholic," he said.

Crane concluded by saying that, "Hazing is no more about tradition and unity and all those other buzzwords then rape is about making love . . . it's about power and control," and encouraging students to take action to make hazing a thing of the past.

What offended some members of the audience was the context in which Crane chose to convey that message.

"His whole overtone was that it was a semi-joking matter, and that to reach us he had to make jokes," commented Trish Wagner '07, treasurer of Women Will and president of the campus chapter of Amnesty International.

Wagner said she was also opposed to the fact that she was required to attend the lecture when neither of her organizations engages in hazing or has ever been accused of doing so. She said she felt as though some of Crane's comments were "condon-

ing sexual assault, which I thought he was against."

"I was offended from the second he opened his mouth," she added.

During the course of his speech, Crane made numerous comments to members of the audience that could be perceived as inappropriate. These included admiration for members of the women's softball team and a desire to see them play, a long analogy that featured Crane having a relationship with a female student in attendance, and a reference to people doing "funny things with gavels" during initiation rituals.

Kyle Casey '07, a member of the Board of Programers, took a different view of Crane's presentation.

"While he talked a lot about stuff that everyone knows about, the significance is that it happened," he said. "It was brought up before a large audience, and people can't hide behind ignorance."

Casey also mentioned the Rhode Island Hazing Law, which defines hazing as "any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person."

"At this point, a lot of people don't agree with this definition of hazing, but it

is the law," he said, adding that he is among those who are not in agreement with it.

Liz Iannessa '07, president of the Board of Programers, acknowledged that many students were disturbed by the examples Crane used to make his points.

"In hopes of captivating an audience in the lecture, he used crude humor which in turn shut off the audience to any positive message he might put forth," she said.

The week after the presentation was held, a letter was sent from BOP to all attending organizations, encouraging them to look beyond the coarseness of Crane's speech and focus instead on the positive aspects of his message, such as taking responsibility and considering consequences.

The nature of the presentation came as a surprise even to those who had planned it. According to Iannessa, members of BOP spent time with Crane during the day, and several faculty members joined them for dinner.

"This was very productive and he was very receptive to issues on the Providence College campus," she explained. "This, however, was not indicative of his presentation to the school."

She also said that Crane was selected through CAMPUSPEAK, which she

described as "a very reputable agency," and that Crane has spoken at more than 300 institutions across the country on the topic of risk management.

Father Murphy said that through a sub-committee of the Committee on Campus Culture, Conduct, and Civility, the College is currently developing a policy on hazing that will affect all groups and individuals on campus.

"Hazing is [a] issue that needs to be addressed in comprehensive fashion at Providence College," he said. "[It] is an issue that every club, organization, and athletic team has to be aware of, and that's the whole reason we're going ahead with putting together a more comprehensive policy."

Father Murphy emphasized that the school's continuing efforts to address this issue will involve the student body, and added that he views this program as "just the first step" in developing awareness on campus. Although he was not able to attend Crane's controversial presentation, he was "very glad" that such an event was held.

"It was important that this be out there," he said. "All of this is being done to serve and educate our students so we can have an environment that creates a better community."



MARY PELLETIER '09/The Cowl

Faced with the choice of living in traditional dorms or living off campus next year, many members of the Class of 2009 have considered moving off campus.

Sophomores consider off-campus housing

JENNIFER JARVIS '07
NEWS EDITOR

After apartment and suite selection ended at 2:58 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16, 137 members—or 16 percent—of the Class of 2009 who applied were left without an apartment or suite, according to Dr. Steven A. Sears, dean of Residence Life. A meeting, run by Sears and Richard Kless, director of off-campus living, and Sears, was held that evening in the Aquinas Hall lounge to discuss other options for these students.

Kless tried to calm the tension some stu-

dents were experiencing, stating that he wanted “to work with [them] as quickly, quietly, and expeditiously as I can.”

Kless outlined the housing options open to rising juniors, who have the choice of remaining in a traditional dorm or moving off-campus. Because more than half of the students present at the meeting indicated they were interested in moving off campus, Kless focused on apartment hunting.

“There are plenty of apartments out there,” he said, mentioning that the Office of Off-Campus Living has a 53-page list of more than 150 nearby apartments available for student housing. Kless also said that there are many other apartments available

in addition to the ones on the list and encouraged students to be up front when talking to landlords.

“Don’t be shy about saying, ‘Do you have any other listings?’” he said.

Kless said that even as late as this past August, landlords were looking to fill apartments for the 2006-07 school year. He added, however, that acting quickly will allow students more housing options. Kless also said that if students choose to live off-campus, their \$200 housing deposit will be refunded by crediting their account.

A group of students at the meeting had already signed an off-campus lease and were soliciting roommates to fill a vacant spot in their apartment.

“We didn’t even put in our money for housing so we have to move off-campus,” said Kerri Hadden '09, one of the students who signed the lease. She and Molly O’Brien '09 said that although many of their friends had originally intended to live off-campus, some had backed out.

“Little by little, they started moving on [campus],” O’Brien said, adding that the difficulty of finding roommates is exacerbated by their friends’ plans to study abroad next year.

“Abroad makes it so much harder,” O’Brien said.

Some students expressed frustration at the housing selection process, wondering why rising juniors do not get to select housing before rising seniors, as the older class would be better equipped to deal with the business of moving off campus. Kless acknowledged the “problem of success” in the housing selection process, but also noted the difficulty of telling a certain junior class that as seniors, they will again have second choice in housing selection.

“We’re overcrowded,” he said. “There are only so many rooms in the inn.”

Sears reminded students that no one is being “forced” to move off campus but added that housing is only guaranteed for freshmen and sophomores.

One concern for students was the fact that eight percent of rising sophomores received housing in the apartments or suites by rooming with upperclassmen. Sears addressed the fairness of the issue.

“A certain amount needs to get into the apartments and suites or else we won’t have enough space for rising sophomores and freshmen in the traditional halls,” he said. He reassured students, however, that these underclassmen did not simply use an older student to reserve a spot, saying that a housing contract is only good if all the people who signed up for the room sign the contract. After the selection process, students are not allowed to switch out of their rooms until the middle of October of the following year.

“Last year, there were five rooms that tried to manipulate the process,” Sears said, adding that the residents of these rooms lost their apartment or suite as a result.

Another issue that arose was the uncertainty of the living situation of students who chose to remain in traditional halls. If a large number of rising juniors choose to live in traditional halls next year, there will be fewer rooms available for underclassmen, and rooms will have to be overcrowded. On the other hand, if all the rising juniors moved off campus, there would be empty rooms and “tuition’s going to go through the roof,” Kless said.

“It’s an inexact science, folks,” he said.

Sears said that the Office of Residence Life hopes that some rising juniors and seniors move off campus to leave options open for rising freshmen and sophomores but will not force any rising juniors off.

Some students embraced the idea of moving off campus.

“It’s not that big of a deal to live off-campus,” said Kate Liebert '09.

Kless encouraged students to ask themselves, “What are you ready for?” in terms of housing.

“Now it comes to taste, who can live with who,” he said. Kless and Sears both offered to work closely with students to accommodate their needs and talk with parents if need be.

“I’m pretty good at gauging the anxiety of moms and dads,” Kless said.

Kless encouraged students to look at this experience as an opportunity.

“This is a do-able thing . . .” he said. “It could be an incredible growth experience.”

UPCOMING CAMPUS MINISTRY EVENTS

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!



FRIDAY 12/8

6:00 - 10:00 P.M. - TWILIGHT RETREAT!
LAST DAY OF CLASSES III

SATURDAY 12/9

4:30 P.M. - MASS

SUNDAY 12/10

4:30 P.M. - MASS
6:00 P.M. - LITURGICAL CHOIR REHEARSAL
7:00 P.M. - MASS *
10:30 P.M. - MASS *

*FOLLOWED BY POST MASS BASH



WHAT'S UP IN MCPHAIL'S

THURS 12/7: REVIVAL LIVE!

Come down to McPhail's for great live music and entertainment. Full bar w/ ID @8pm.

FRI 12/8: Senior Night!

This could be your last chance before the holidays to hang out with your senior friends.

McPhail's promises a great night!

Full bar w/ID 4:30pm!

'07

SAT 12/9: WE ARE OPEN, COME HANG OUT!

Come relax with your friends before you hit the books. Enjoy a game of pool, ping pong or foosball. Or just watch college football.



STAY TUNED FOR UPCOMING STUDYING
BREAKS! FREE FOOD!

Coast to coast runner to cross finish in R.I.

BY LISA HOFER '09
NEWS STAFF

Three-and-a-half thousand miles of road lie between San Francisco, Calif., and Narragansett, R.I., and Conn. high school teacher Christian McEvoy is running the entire way. As a cofounder of Coast to Coast: A Run for Survivorship, under the Challenge America Foundation, McEvoy is running straight across the entire country to raise awareness and funds for cancer survivors. Soon, members of the PC community will have a chance to join him.

Since July 1, McEvoy has run more than 3,167 miles, 20 to 40 miles a day, six days a week, and has raised more than \$171,143. This money will primarily be donated to the Yale Cancer Center in New Haven, Conn., which funds survivorship clinics providing support to the 10 million Americans living with cancer or the aftermath of cancer.

As McEvoy has made his way across the Rocky Mountain, mid-Western plains, and the increasingly chilly East, a documentary crew and support team has been following him. The documentary will link together his run with the "stories of people with dif-

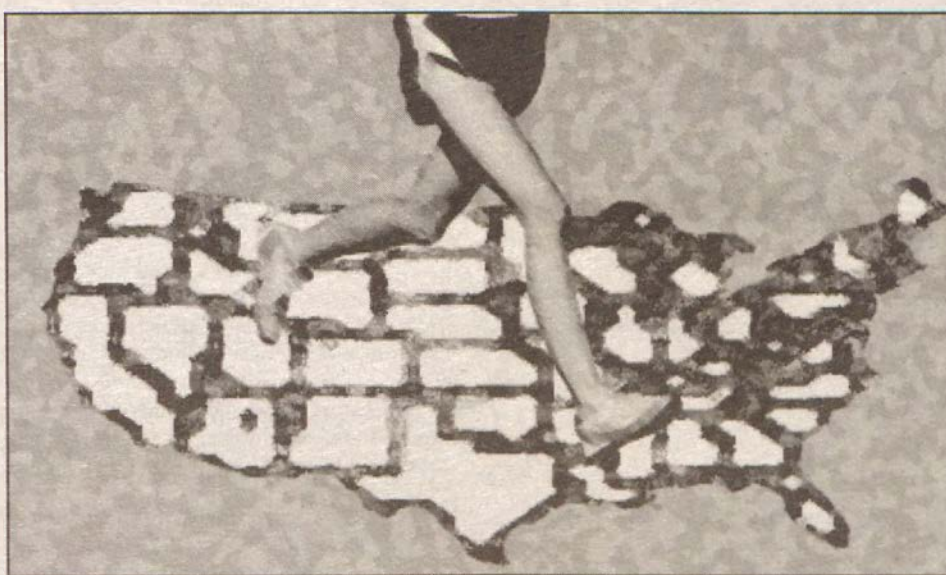
fering cancers, of various ages, races and regions," said Leslie Estelle of Coast to Coast Run.

Additionally, community groups, especially high schools through the High School Challenge, have been uniting with McEvoy for portions of his run. Soon, Providence College will join this tradition to complete the final marathon.

Emily Pierson '09—a Public and Community Service major and cousin of the Run Operation Coordinator Matthew Pierson—has brought together the Feinstein Institute for Public Service with Coast to Coast.

"I'm trying to get PC involved in the run," said Pierson. "A couple people made donations," she said, adding that so far six students—both men and women from all class years—have responded to her e-mail calling for students to participate in the run itself.

On Saturday, Dec. 16, these students will join McEvoy and hundreds of other runners to complete the last stretch of his journey. Students can choose to begin at the Westerly YMCA to run a full marathon of 26.2 miles, or they can start at the Charlestown Elementary School, to complete a half marathon of 13.1 miles, ending at the Narragansett Pier. Just as McEvoy



MATT LONGOBARDI '10/The Cowl

When Christian McEvoy finishes his coast-to-coast run on Saturday, Dec. 16, PC students will have the chance to run the last leg with him.

started his journey literally standing in the Pacific Ocean, he plans to finish it splashing into the waters of Narragansett Bay.

McEvoy said he hopes that with the help PC students and the RI community, he can finish off his cross-country run with a bang, attracting even more sup-

port for cancer survivorship.

"As I run along Route 92 in Iowa, people don't often realize that I'm coming from California and headed for Rhode Island, but when [just] 50 [people] join me it's a different story," said McEvoy. "Everyone wants to know why."

NEWS briefs

Hiring process for new dean continues

As the semester comes to an end, the search for the new position of Dean of International Studies continues with full force. The six candidates for the job started on-campus visits last Thursday, Nov. 30, and will continue on select days until Monday Dec. 11.

"They come from all different backgrounds," said Charles Haberle, assistant vice president of Academic Affairs. "They all seem to have a wealth of experience in study abroad programs within a college setting."

The Office of International Studies was created to combine the study abroad program with the services the College provides for its international students. The two programs will now both be overseen by the new dean. Last year, the study abroad program was directed by Dr. Seana McGovern and the advisor for international students was Dr. John Hogan, director of personal counseling.

To hire the new dean, the College assembled a search committee, headed by Dr. James Keating, professor of theology. Applications were examined by the committee, in which the College is interested.

The six candidates are: Susan M. Atkins, director of study abroad at

Wheaton College; Dr. James L. Buschman, senior director of institutional relations at the office of global education at New York University; Dr. Brittain Smith, associate director of study abroad at the College of the Holy Cross; Erik Krauss, dean of student development and director of international student services at Brescia University; Judith A. Green, senior director for member relations and resources at the National Association of International Educators (NAFSA); and Dr. Adrian Beaulieu, associate dean for international study at Smith College.

Atkins, Buschman, Smith, and Krauss have already visited campus. Open forums were held on for each of the candidates

when they visited PC. The forum for Atkins took place on Nov. 30, for Buschman Dec. 1, for Smith on Dec. 5, and for Krauss on Dec. 7. Green will visit the College on Dec. 8 and Beaulieu will visit on Dec. 11. All meetings are in Moore Hall III at 2:30 p.m.

According to Haberle, the College set up lunch sessions with international students and study abroad participants for the visits of the candidates.

The position is expected to be filled over the break and the new dean will start sometime next semester, said Haberle.

—Chris Donnelly '08

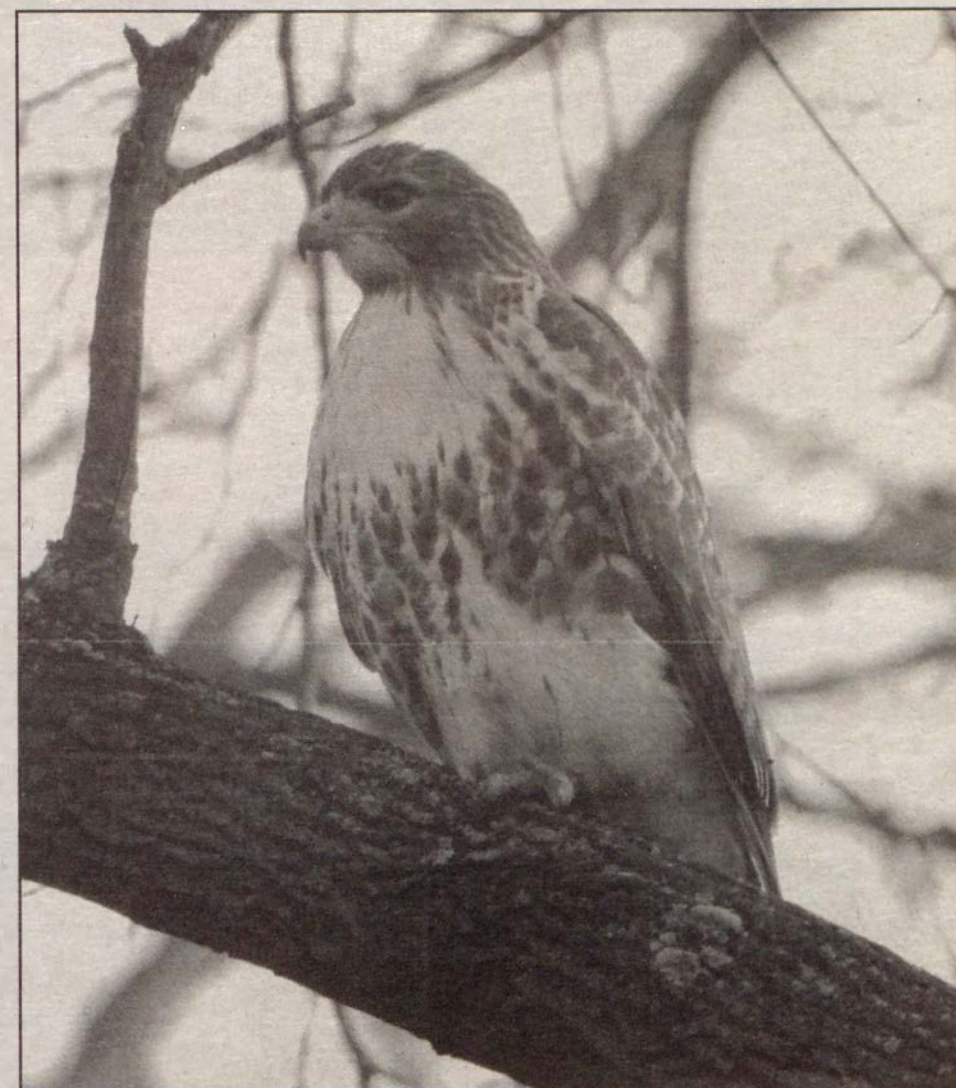
Shots Photographs of Providence College

Campus



TIM PISACICH '07/The Cowl

Left to right: Ryan Gladysz '08, Pete Cannon '07, and Michael Donohue '08 collected more than 700 non-perishable food items for a food drive they conducted last week. According to Cannon, the drive was a project for the students' Business Communications course, taught by Anthony Baker, adjunct instructor of management. The food drive took place in Bedford Hall, Davis Hall, Suites Hall, McDermott Hall, and Guzman Hall. Cannon said the food will be donated to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank.



TIM PISACICH '07/The Cowl

Bird's eye view: Outside Phillips Memorial Library, this hawk is getting ready for a feast. Students have said that while walking around campus, they have spotted the hawk snacking on furry animals. Photo Editor Tim Pisacich '07, who took this photo shortly before Thanksgiving break, said that a majority of his fellow students were once late to class because they were watching the hawk eat a squirrel. It is unknown whether there are other hawks in the area, or if this is the only one that has found a home on the PC campus.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALICIA SALERNO

Left to right: A group of students are all smiles at the QUEST Olympics, an event with more than 20 activities for students in traditional dorms.

Tuition: Breaking down the cost

continued from front page

Tim Welsh's salary—more than \$750,000—is paid for in part by students. In fact, three of the top five paid employees of the College (excluding officers, directors, and trustees) in 2005 were in the athletic department: Welsh, Athletic Director Robert G. Driscoll, and former Women's Head Basketball Coach Susan Yow.

“

We give out more than any school we compete with, and we do not have the alternate resources other schools have, namely the endowment.

Mike Frazier, vice president and chief financial officer of finance and business

”

“My first reaction on hearing those numbers is that it doesn't seem right and that athletics is valued more than education,” said Nick Volpe '08. “But it's also important to note that basketball brings in a lot of money.”

Still, Volpe continued, “I don't think [Welsh] deserves that much money.”

“I understand why the highest paid employees are in athletics,” said Tim Blank '07. “There is a lot of funding for athletics at this school, but I understand that it's necessary, being a Division I school.”

Frazier agreed with the students' assessments. “We have to compete in the market

for coaches,” he said. “This is what coaches make in the Big East.”

Although much attention is usually focused on how much money is allotted to athletics, there are many day-to-day expenses that tuition and room and board pay for as well. According to Frazier, besides the “millions” of dollars the school spends on energy—especially when the price of oil increased drastically—other not-so-obvious costs include things such as wages for security guards and workers in the campus power plant, which are around-the-clock jobs and are therefore an expense 24 hours a day, rather than the standard eight.

“There are a lot of behind-the-scenes costs that eventually find a way to the students,” said Frazier.

Last year, the College spent \$108 million dollars in operating expenses which is everything that does not include capital expenditures—construction or maintenance of buildings. Operating expenses, including salaries, utilities, grounds upkeep, etc. can range anywhere from \$7 million to \$20 million.

Like any business or institution, however, Frazier said that the school could always use more money, especially in its endowment—money given to the College and used primarily to support scholarships rather than operating expenses. Although he said that the school's endowment has risen from \$29 million in 1994 to \$140 million as of September 30, “We don't have the resources we might like to have.” To put things in perspective, Boston College has an endowment of more than \$1 billion, and the College of the Holy Cross' endowment is around half a billion dollars.

Although PC has a smaller endowment than its competitors, it also is more generous in giving out financial aid in the form of full and partial tuition scholarships. PC has a “discount rate” of about 33 percent for undergraduates, compared to the discount rates of other similar institutions,

such as Villanova and Holy Cross, which have discount rates in the 20 percent range. The discount rate is calculated by dividing the amount of scholarship aid given out by the total amount of tuition revenue collected. In other words, the discount rate reports the amount of college-awarded scholarships and grants as a percentage of total tuition and fees.

“We give out more than any school we compete with, and we do not have the alternate resources other schools have, namely the endowment” to put toward day-to-day expenses, said Frazier. Unlike at other schools, which use their endowment to finance scholarships, PC also uses money from paying students' tuitions to fund institutional gift money. As a result, the College's operating budget is smaller than other similar schools.

For some students, this is a sacrifice they are willing to make.

CJ Hessenius '09 said that with more financial aid available, “it gives more people a chance to come here. I think it's a good thing to sacrifice things like nicer dorm furniture to make the education here more affordable. The value of the education at this school is very good.”

In addition, students said they do not believe that the fact that other schools such as BC have more money to spend has hindered their PC educational experience.

“I would agree that an education at BC is comparable to PC [because] I feel that our professors are as qualified as the ones that teach at BC,” said Kenny Hewitt '07.

Number Crunching

Endowment = \$140 million (as of Sept. 30)

Building construction and maintenance = \$7 to 20 million

Total tuition, fees, and room and board collected in 2005: More than \$109 million

QUEST: Pilot dorm program takes off

continued from page 3

participate,” said Sears.

Students said they feel the same way towards QUEST.

“It was a good experience and it's something unique to Providence College,” said Tom Daly '10. “I especially liked being a gentleman of McDermott.”

Daly, a McDermott resident and a member of the Blue Barracudas, enjoyed the Olympics.

“I had fun with the Olympics—I played dodgeball, volleyball, and Name that Tune,” Daly said. “QUEST was a good way to build brotherhood.”

Maureen Kitson '10, team captain of a different Blue Barracuda team, also said she felt QUEST helped build community.

“I thought it was a really good way to get to know people on your floor,” said Kitson. “It seemed like the freshman enjoyed it more than the sophomores who were involved, but the people who got into it had a really good time.”

This weekend, the awards ceremony will take place to announce the winning QUEST team, but Sears said he thinks for some students it is about more than winning a prize.

“I think there is a sense of pride involved—students will want the ability to say they won,” said Sears.

Residence Life is already working on next year's QUEST, according to Sears and Elirus. They said the next QUEST will realign the teams and have events that are “more academic and spiritual,” said Sears.

Both Sears and Elirus said they are proud of a program they feel stresses the mission of the College.

“It's just a phenomenal feeling, knowing how the residents took to the program,” said Elirus.

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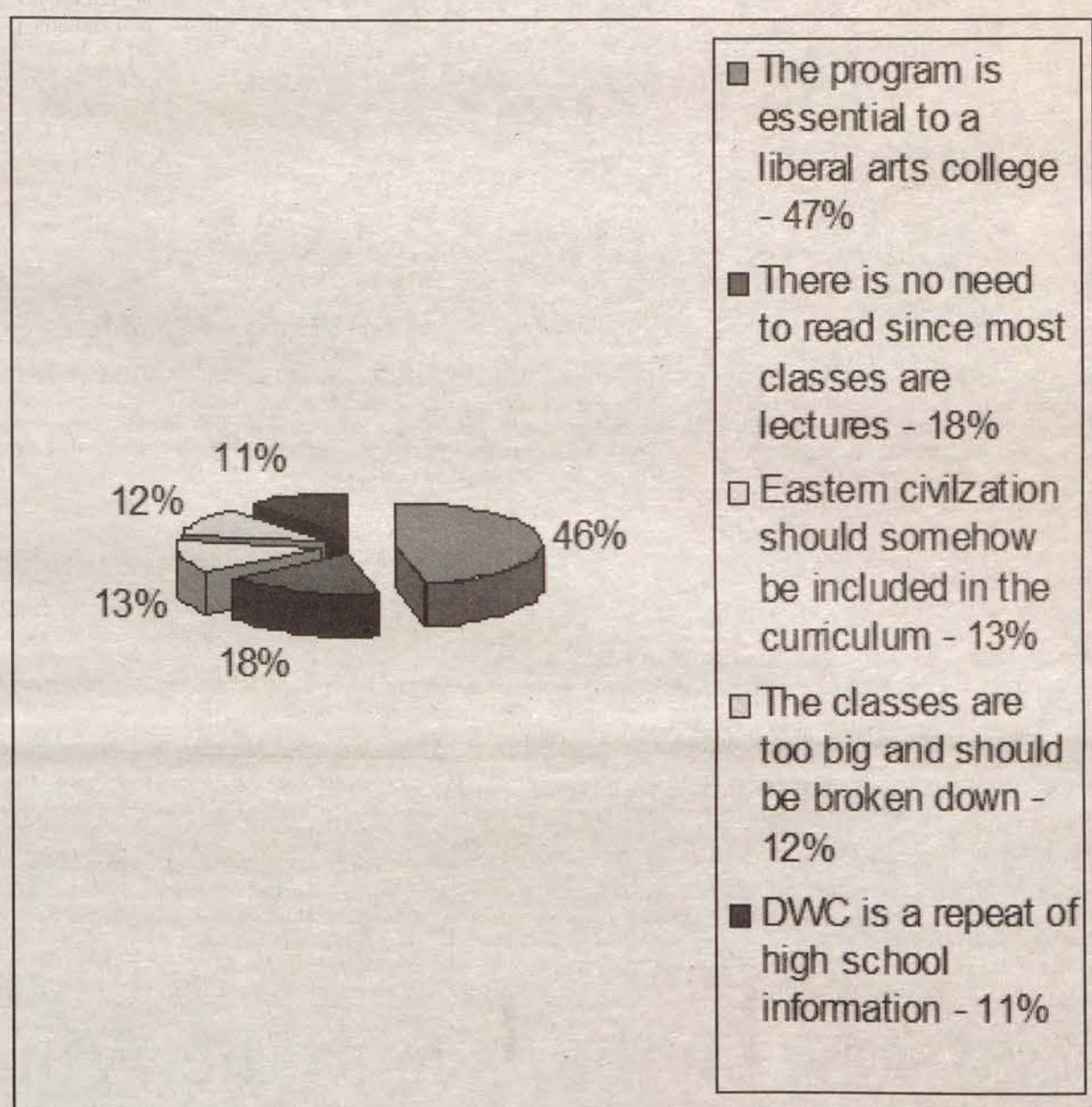
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Last week The Cowl asked its readers to share their thoughts about the DWC program.

Here's the consensus:



THIS WEEK:

What do you think about the Providence College faculty?

- 1.) The professors are always easily accessible to students.
- 2.) There are not enough professors of ethnically diverse backgrounds.
- 3.) The professors should have more office hours.
- 4.) Most professors really care about their students.
- 5.) The professors don't challenge their students enough.

Vote on www.thecowl.com and find out the results in the next issue of The Cowl.

Hundreds perish in Philippines after typhoon

BY BRETT CORRIGAN '09
WORLD STAFF

On Nov. 30, the Philippines was hit with its fourth major typhoon in four months, causing President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to declare a state of national calamity.

The most recent storm, internationally known as Durian (called "Remig" in the Philippines), has caused sporadic floods and landslides throughout the area, especially in the regions of Catanduanes, Albay, and Laguna.

According to the Philippines National Disaster Coordination Council, as of Dec. 5, at least 526 people were reported dead. That number is feared to climb dramatically as there are still many areas where communication is virtually impossible. Another 740 people have been reported missing thus far.

In a Dec. 4 press release from the Republic of the Philippines, President Arroyo stated: "This is a time for unity and continuous action, as we pour in more troops, medical personnel, and volunteer." While realizing that the immediate task at hand is to help the victims of this fourth horrible disaster, Arroyo also acknowledged the importance of better preparation for such disasters in the future, stating that the country must "step up the national hazard mapping program to forewarn vulnerable communities and help increase the capability for local governments."

According to the Philippine National Red Cross, the level of destruction for which Typhoon Durian is responsible has significantly surpassed that of the three previous typhoons, and the death toll is still climbing. Thousands are being left homeless, and water and food supplies are depleting almost as instantly as they arrive.

"Houses and infrastructure suffered massive damage from volcanic debris and mudflows from Mt. Mayon." According to the Red Cross, survivors, many of whom remain in shock from the destruction, "have sought refuge in packed evacuation centers."



CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL

The fourth major typhoon to hit the Philippines in the last four months, Typhoon Durian has already caused at least 526 deaths. This number is expected to rise dramatically, as more than 700 people have been reported missing and many areas have been unable to be reached by rescue teams because of the destruction.

Due to its geographic location on the western rim of the Pacific Ocean, the Philippines, is considered one of the most active natural disaster locations in the world. It faces the threat of typhoons, and is surrounded by a belt of active volcanoes and fault lines, leading to a heightened threat of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

Despite this constant underlying threat of natural disaster, the recent string of typhoons came with little warning, and all four happened in a very short amount of time.

When the first storm, Typhoon Milenyo, hit the country in September, more than four million were affected in some way, with 184 dead, more than 600 injured or missing, and close to 500,000 houses totally or partially destroyed.

The second of the typhoons, named Paeng, occurred on Oct. 26, killing 23 and leaving 65 injured or missing. Queen, which struck on Nov. 11, left 10 injured and one dead.

Durian, occurring just last week, struck as the country was trying to recover from the first three disasters, which had created an extreme need of financial and medical assistance in the country. With 740 people still reported to be missing, the Red Cross and government agencies are continuing relief and recovery efforts and fear that the death toll may exceed 1,000.

While there is an outpouring of support nationally, and significant international help, there is still a substantial demand in the area for water and water purifiers, medical teams and various medicines, ready-to-eat food items, blankets, candles,

clothing, shelter, and overall volunteer relief, according to the National Disaster Coordinating Council report on Dec. 5.

As the nation desperately searches for any remaining survivors and begins to rebuild once again, Arroyo offered some words of consolation to the nation: "We are no strangers to this kind of tragedy; and we have always been able to recover and become stronger."

According to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, "Between 1995 and 2004, the number of global windstorms shot up annually from 59 to 121. . . This type of violent weather affected almost 16 million people in 2004 alone."

Getting a head start on the race to the White House

Popular and controversial figures alike are already vying for a term in the hot seat

BY AMANDA SILK '08
WORLD STAFF

Even though it is only December of 2006, the presidential race for 2008 has (un)officially begun. Some confident candidates have already declared their entrance into the race. Most candidates, however, are currently conducting studies into their viability for the race. Surprisingly, some have already dropped out of the race. Here is a breakdown, as compiled by Georgetown University:

Following their mid-term election sweep in November, the Democrats are hoping to make a strong run for the presidency in 2008. Gov. Tom Vilsack from Iowa formally announced his candidacy on Nov. 30. At 56 years old, Vilsack is the longest serving Democratic governor. Former Sen. Mike Gravel from Virginia announced his presidential bid back on April 17. Gravel is 76 years old and is considered a long shot due to his mixed successes and failures in politics, mostly in Alaska.

Democratic candidates who are exploring options for 2008 include: Gov. Bill Richardson (N.M.); Sen. Barack Obama (Ill.); Sen. John Kerry (Mass.); Former Vice President AL Gore (Tenn); Former Sen. John Edwards (N.C.); Sen. Hilary Rodham Clinton (N.Y.); Gen. Wesley Clark, Sen. Joe Biden (Del.); Sen. Evan Bayh (Ind.); Former Sen. Mike Gravel

(Va.); and Providence College's own Sen. Christopher Dodd (Conn.).

Former Senator Tom Daschle (S.D.) ruled out a run on Dec. 2. Sen. Russ Feingold (Wis.) decided against running on Nov. 13. Finally, Former Gov. Mark Warner (Va.) withdrew from the race on Oct. 12.



According to a recent "feeling thermometer" poll, Rudy Giuliani is the most well-liked potential candidate with an average score of 64.2 out of 100. Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., came in second with a score of 58.8. Sen. Hillary Clinton D-N.Y., was rated ninth in that poll, and Gov. Mitt Romney R-Mass., placed 13th. The Poll was conducted by CNN.

In 2008, the Republicans are seeking to overcome the country's negative feelings toward President Bush and continue with Republican control of the White House. John Cox of Illinois has declared his candidacy and he is considered a long shot as he has never held political office.

Republican candidates who are currently considering running in 2008 include: Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani (N.Y.); Gov. Mitt Romney (Mass.); Former Gov.

Tommy Thompson (Wis.); Gov. George Pataki (N.Y.); Sen. John McCain (Ariz.); Gov. Mike Huckabee (Ark.); Rep. Duncan Hunter (Calif.); Sen. Chuck Hagel (Neb.); Sen. Sam Brownback (Kan.); Sen. George Allen (Va.); Former Gov. Jim Gilmore (Va.); Rep. Tom Tancredo (Colo.); and Rep. Mike Pence (Ind.).

Also running are Republicans Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Sen. Bill Frist (also a medical doctor) of Tennessee dropped out of the race on Nov. 29th.

According to a recent feeling thermometer poll conducted by CNN, Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani is the most well-liked potential candidate, with an average score of 64.2 (on a 0-100 scale). Sen. Barack Obama came in second, leading the

Democrats with a 58.8 score. Sen. Hillary Clinton came in ninth with a 49, and Gov. Mitt Romney placed 13th with 45.9. Also of note, Sen. John Kerry came in last out of 20 with a 39.6 on that scale.

Much talk of the 2008 election has been focused on Sen. Hillary Clinton. CNN outlined her advantages and disadvantages should she run, saying that to begin, she has plenty of money, great campaign advisors, and she has been able to handily win two terms as Senator of New York.

Additionally, and perhaps most importantly, her husband is a great strategist and fundraiser. She may be too liberal, however, for the moderate Democrats and swing voters, and she would be the first female candidate.

Dick Harpootian, a former chairman of the South Carolina Democratic Party, commented on Clinton polarization to CNN saying, "There are people who would write a check and die for her, but there are plenty of others who wouldn't vote for her. She promised to eliminate the income tax and give free ice cream to everyone."

For the Republicans, former Mayor of New York City Rudy Giuliani is leading the pack. Giuliani gained national credibility for his handling of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and he was *Time* magazine Person of the Year in 2001. However, according to CNN, his moderate views on social issues such as gay marriage and abortion which would make him a controversial choice for Republicans.

Week in Review

Compiled by Nicole Chismar '07

National

E. coli outbreak threatens Taco Bell

Health officials announced Monday that a recent outbreak of E. coli infections in New Jersey has reached up to 19 confirmed cases. According to CNN, 11 of the confirmed cases were said to have eaten at a Taco Bell in South Plainfield.

Five of the 19 individuals were also hospitalized, two of them suffering from hemolytic uremic syndrome, a syndrome said to cause permanent kidney damage.

Middlesex County Director of Health, David Papi, told CNN on Sunday Dec. 3, "It's a significant outbreak and it's a serious disease."

Papi also said on Sunday that the South Plainfield restaurant will remain closed temporarily despite no significant health code violations.

Ordinarily, E. coli infections are spread through undercooked meat, however, the

bacteria can also spread from person to person if proper precautions are not taken.

World

Rosales reacts to election loss

Socialist Hugo Chavez claimed victory for the second time during Venezuelan presidential election late on Sunday, Dec. 3. Chavez, most-notably known for his anti-American sentiments, defeated challenger Manuel Rosales by a wide margin of 61 percent to 38 percent.

"Long live the socialist revolution! Destiny has been written," Chavez shouted to supporters, reported the Associated Press. Chavez also stated that, "It's another defeat for the devil, who tries to dominate the world. Down with Imperialism! We need a new world!"

The 52-year-old leader hopes to bolster efforts to remodel Venezuela in a "self-styled socialist revolution."

Technology

Microsoft releases new products

Microsoft plans to unveil its latest PC operating system on Thursday. Replacing Microsoft Windows XP, Vista is designed to make PCs more secure, and to greatly enhance data-backup tools, according to CNN.

The new operating system will also be simultaneously released with a newer version of Microsoft Office.

Office 2007 hopes to bring huge improvements to its most widely used programs such as Word, Outlook, Excel, and PowerPoint. Analysts, however, project Vista will only gradually increase in popularity, especially in the business world.

The Associated Press reported that predictions by Gartner Dataquest project that it will be 2010 before Vista outnumbers XP on business computers.

Local

ACLU sues Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College was targeted by a new lawsuit on Monday, *The Providence Journal* reported. The Rhode Island affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union in cooperation with the Women's Studies Organization filed the suit in reaction to the removal of signs on campus that stated "Keep your rosaries off our ovaries."

By removing the signs, the group claims that the college violated First Amendment rights. The goal of the suit is to have the removal deemed unconstitutional by the courts.

Volunteer ACLU Lawyer Jennifer Azevedo told the *Journal*, "It is unfortunate to see the free speech rights of students on such an important public issue violated by an institution of higher education."

New use for abortion pill RU 486 may fight breast, ovarian cancers

BY SARAH VERNON '07
WORLD STAFF

A new study put out by the journal *Science* last week revealed that the abortion pill RU-486, or Mifepristone, contains a chemical compound that prevents the growth of breast and ovarian cancers.

The pill is authorized for use in the United Kingdom for early termination of pregnancies. The study tested the effects of the chemical on mice and found that it blocked the formation of a mutant gene which is known to cause such cancers.

Researchers at the University of California at Irvine said the study indicates that the drug can help women genetically predisposed to breast and ovarian cancers by interfering with the hormone progesterone in breast tissue cells which leads to tumors. The hormone can lead to a proliferation of cells carrying the mutant gene which leads to cancer.

By age 70, of the women with the mutated form of the gene more than half end up with one of the two types of cancer.

The only current remedy for women with the mutant form of the gene is the removal of breasts or ovaries. The study, researchers hope, will pave the way for

another option for such women.

Carolyn Sayre, a columnist for *Time* magazine noted, "It may seem odd to call RU 486—the prescription-only abortion pill—pro-life, but it may be just that when it comes to cancer."

“It may seem odd to call RU 486—the prescription-only abortion pill—pro-life, but it may be just that when it comes to cancer.”

Carolyn Sayre
Time Magazine

Scientists warn however that RU 486 would never be prescribed for these dual purposes. Researchers say that Mifepristone itself would not be the best option for prevention purposes because of the numerous potential side effects. However, the more specific chemical compounds contained in the drug have a greater potential as a prevention of cancer.

Pope visits Turkey

BY JIM HANRAHAN '09
ASST. WORLD EDITOR

Two months have passed since Pope Benedict XVI outraged Muslims in a speech equating the Islamic religion to violence. During a trip to Turkey last week, the pope stood facing Mecca in silent prayer. It had been roughly 2,000 years since a pope had visited a mosque.

Benedict's current status with Muslims was only one of the reasons for heading to Turkey, although he had expressed his desire for a better relationship soon after his arrival. According to *The New York Times*, the pope told the chief of religious affairs for Istanbul, Mustafa Cagrici, that "With the help of God, we must find the way of peace together, for the good of humanity."

The pope's other motive for him visiting Turkey was to tend to the rift between Orthodox Christians and Catholics.

Throughout the trip the pope showed a more open attitude toward a soured Islamic world. He fully supported Turkey's entrance into the European Union, hoping it would lead to progress in respecting the rights of minorities. Orthodox Christians have complained of harassment and being

on the wrong end of bureaucratic preferential treatment.

Albeit praising Turkey's recent achievements, Benedict tended to walk a thin line when addressing his hosts. Muslims found some comments to be slightly offensive, including his frequent reference to the Christian roots of Turkey and Europe.

Turkey holds a deep symbolism within each of the conflicts the pope wished to address throughout the trip. The pope toured the Hagia Sophia, which in 1054 was the seat of the Byzantine Church when it split from Roman Catholicism.

The Ottoman Turks would turn it into a Mosque roughly 400 years later, only to have it transformed into a museum when Turkey became a more secular state. Under high security, the pope also toured the Blue Mosque, built in the 17th century and intended to serve as a sign that Muslims could outdo Christians.

During a speech that was reminiscent of the infamous one in Germany, the pope mentioned a common theme of violence in the name of religion. This time the speech was absent of any Islam references. The effect of the trip on the Muslim discontent, however, remains unseen.

Political controversy erupts in Latin America

BY SARAH VAZ '07
WORLD EDITOR

VENEZUELA: Chavez easily wins reelection

Venezuelan president, Hugo Chavez, won reelection by a wide majority on Sunday, Dec. 3, ensuring he will have six more years to implement his socialist vision. Chavez has a long-term plan that aims to redistribute the country's oil wealth to the poor while countering U.S. influence in the region.

His challenger, Manuel Rosales, has accused Chavez of ruling with an authoritarian style and warned Venezuelans that he could become increasingly radical if reelected. Rosales did concede defeat but has vowed to remain in opposition to Chavez, who has dominated the various branches of government with his allies since winning office in 1998.

Chavez has used the country's oil wealth to channel billions into education, food benefits, and cash benefits for single mothers, as well as providing monetary aid to controversial allies such as Cuba, Bolivia, and Iran. Recently, he has come under fire for the country's pervasive crime and corruption, as well as for referring to U.S. President George W. Bush as the devil.

The election did see high voter turnout, with some citizens camping out overnight in voting lines.



MEXICO: Calderon takes oath of office

Conservative Felipe Calderon was nearly prevented from taking the oath of office for the presidency of Mexico last Friday, Dec. 1, after winning the closest, most fiercely contested, and most bitter presidential race in the nation's history.

Right up until his sudden arrival, members of opposing parties had been pushing and shoving each other, even tossing chairperson the floor of Congress as dignitaries watched from the galleries.

Members of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) hoped to physically prevent Calderon from reaching the podium to take the oath, and members of the PRD spent several nights sleeping on the floor of the congress to protect the podium space from the opposing National Action Party (PAN).

PAN members managed to seize the podium, and Calderon and outgoing President Vicente Fox occupied the space just long enough to hand off power.

The new president was forced to flee to another, safer location to deliver his first televised speech as president. Leftists believe he is a corrupt and has usurped power.

Having won by less than one percentage point, he was accused of fraud, and losing candidate Lopez Obrador was quoted as saying the electoral institutions could all "go to hell."



CUBA Castro too ill to attend celebration

Cuban leader Fidel Castro was a no-show at his own birthday party this week, still too ill to attend, even after postponing it from his actual birth date in August. The week of government-sponsored celebrations was supposed to be capped off by a speech and appearance by Castro, who last addressed the nation in July.

After that appearance, it was announced that he had had abdominal surgery and would cede power to 75-year-old brother Raul during his recovery.

While the details of his illness are regarded as state secrets, the United States believes he is suffering from a terminal cancer, and his failure to appear at Saturday's event has convinced many Cubans that he may be in his last days.

Nonetheless, critics and supporters of his regime alike have acknowledged that little will change if the famed leader does pass away in the near future.

Despite the universal healthcare and education provided by his version of socialism, Castro's people continue to suffer from classism, racism, and often abject poverty, in addition to some severely restricted freedoms.

Nonetheless, many in the country believe that little will change about the country's politics, saying his absence has proven that his physical presence is not necessary to influence public sentiment.



CHILE: Former Chilean dictator near death

Augusto Pinochet, The former Chilean dictator, is said to be fighting for his life in a Chilean hospital after having a severe heart attack.

Doctors say the 91-year-old Pinochet is conscious but has been administered the sacrament of Last Rites.

The former leader—who also suffers from diabetes, arthritis, and dementia—headed up a military regime responsible for the torture and murder of thousands of Chileans over a period of 17 years.

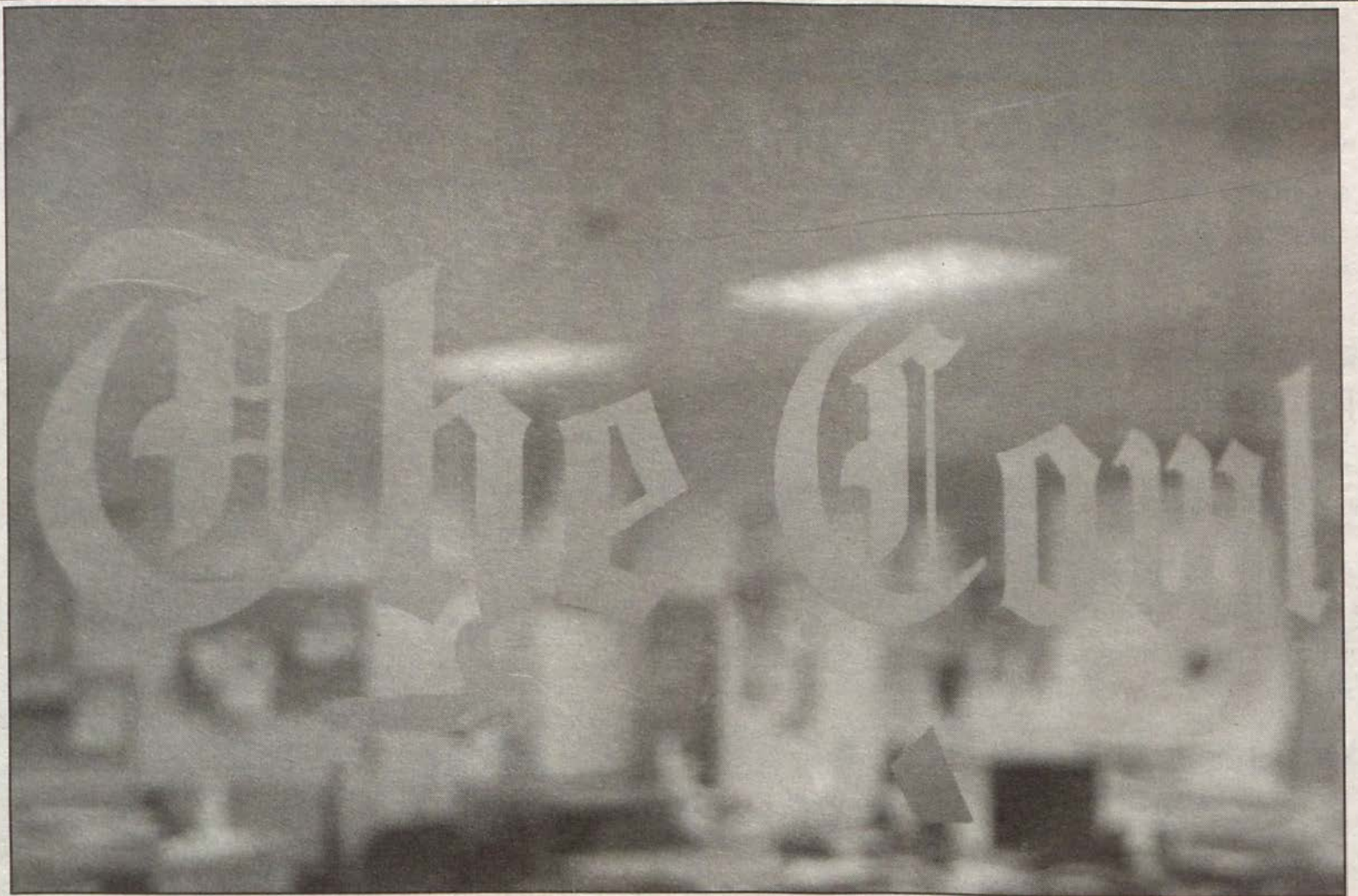
Last week Pinochet was placed under house arrest after being indicted in the executions of two bodyguards of former Marxist president Salvador Allende, who was ousted in 1973 after a bloody coup led by Pinochet. The Chilean court was expected to rule on his appeal this week.

The house arrest was one of many actions taken in recent years against Pinochet—on charges stemming from his regime's human rights violations and his personal tax violations.

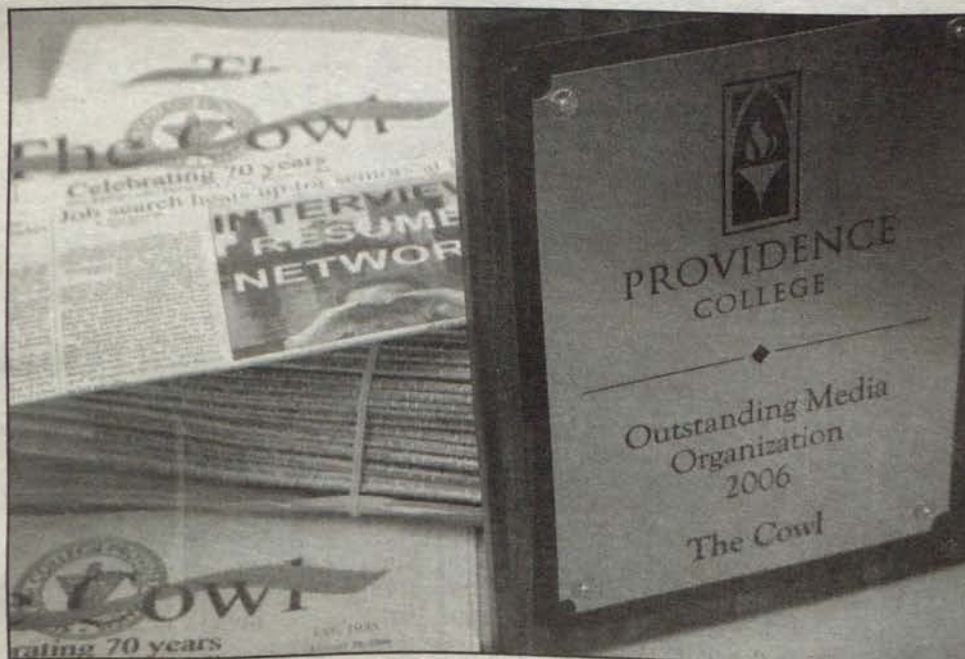
An independent commission in Chile estimates that 3,197 people were killed for political reasons under his regime—more than 1,000 of which were categorized as "disappeared," having been buried in secret graves or dropped into the ocean.



Sources: *The Miami Herald*, *The New York Times*, *The Associated Press*



Do you have a response to an article from this week's issue of The Cowl? If so, send a letter to the editor of 250 words or less to the-cowl@providence.edu, or drop off your letter to The Cowl office in Slavin, Room G05, across from McPhail's.



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Are public displays of breasts inappropriate?



BY BETSY ROULEAU '08
COMMENTARY STAFF

GLOBAL ISSUES

I spilled my coffee when I heard the news. It was a typical morning—trying to eat cereal, drink coffee, find my shoes, and make it to class on time—but this stopped me in my tracks.

According to the Associated Press, a woman was removed from an airplane run jointly by Delta Airlines and Freedom Airlines. The flight left Vermont and was heading to New York on a 10:00 p.m. flight in October. She was not threatening anyone, she was not acting suspiciously, and she was not trying to smuggle contraband through airport security. She was removed for being a mother.

Twenty-seven-year-old Emily Gillette was breastfeeding her infant daughter, a child less than a year old, when a flight attendant offered Gillette a blanket to cover herself. When Gillette declined, pointing out that her husband was sitting in the next seat and blocking her from view, the flight attendant stated that she was offended by the action. Soon after the verbal exchange, the flight attendant demanded that Gillette be removed from the plane.

Attorneys for the Gillette family have asked for apologies from the airline and for new laws to be enacted that will protect nursing mothers and children. Gillette, who has become an overnight icon for the rights of breastfeeding mothers throughout the world, has expressed her desires that she only wants breastfeeding to be viewed as a "message of love."

Her concept of breastfeeding being a nurturing, loving action is highly interesting, especially because the flight attendant was so offended by the action of a mother feeding a child. The flight attendant represents a large portion of the population that is made extremely uncomfortable by the act. When did our society become terrified of nature? At what point did a natural act become something unusual and offensive?

There is more at stake here than the question of breastfeeding. Gillette's struggle with Delta and Freedom Airlines speaks to the notion of convenience in society. Recent advancements in sciences have made biology, in many ways, subject to human control. Humans have begun to order human functions to fit the needs of a fast-paced and industrial society. We take hormones, we eat diet foods, and we make our children carry around kid-sized bottles of Purell. As a society, we have begun to shun all that is natural. Our bodies, our foods, and our germs are things that should be fully experienced. This is not to say that biological advancements that aid and better the quality of life are bad. It is merely to say that we should embrace the functions of our bodies that are meant to exist.

A nursing mother is one of the most natural things the world has to offer. A nursing mother is engaging in a process that, while difficult, ensures that her child will have a chance at health, comfort, and security. Doctors even suggest breastfeeding on airplanes during liftoff and landing to aid with the shifts in the baby's ear pressure and to minimize ear pain for the child. The fact that an airline interrupted that process is a sad fact for our society. The act is not sexual or lewd; Gillette was behaving discreetly and ensuring a comfortable experience for her daughter. There was no need for her to be removed. Complaining about the act of breastfeeding is to be uncomfortable

NURTURING/Page 12

Homeless in Rhode Island

BY TIM PISACICH '07
PHOTO EDITOR

John Doe eyed me cautiously as he stood up straight, secure in his corner from the steady flow of people and their small bags of luggage going to and from the Crossroads homeless shelter on Broad Street in downtown Providence.

"Let me see your license."

"Are you a cop?"

"How old are you?" Doe asked me these questions while considering if he would be willing to talk about his experience with homelessness. He glanced up and muttered, "Everybody has his own situation and problem. Only they know why they are homeless."

In a recent interview with *The Cowl*, Dr. Eric Hirsch, professor of sociology and chair of the department, said Doe is not alone, as homelessness is an increasing problem in Rhode Island. The state remains consistent with other U.S. cities; half of one percent of the population is homeless.

"That's 6,400 homeless of the one million in the state," Hirsch said.

Rhode Island has 16 emergency homeless shelters and six shelters for those affected by domestic violence. For four years, more citizens have had to use the shelters. According to a report compiled by Hirsch, "The number of children in our shelters has increased 36 percent since 2000-2001. . . . More than one percent of all Rhode Island children under the age of five spent at least one night in a homeless shelter."

Are Rhode Island shelters able to accommodate with the increasing numbers? And what quality of life are the shelters able to provide for people? Doe looked down at the cracked sidewalk covered with cigarette butts as he told me he plans to spend the month of November in the shelter. "A lot of negative things happen in the shelter. . . . You find drugs everywhere—it was like wildfire in the shelter." He sighed, leaned toward me and said, "They're people who don't do drugs and live here too. . . . They're a rare site, but trying to help themselves."

Do is one of these people; he is trying to help himself through educational programs and reaching for his long-term goal of having a home and working in a hospital to help people. But he's finding it extremely difficult to reach these goals since he cannot escape the encaging effects of a past felony, poverty, and finally homelessness.

"The only thing that affects all homeless people is that they are extremely poor," said Hirsch before discussing the causes and statistics of homelessness. He's trying to break the idea that only drugs, alcohol, or a mental disorder can make someone homeless. Homelessness is often as simple as one's rent increasing or his or her income decreasing.

“ . . . Having a disability, getting caught up in the justice system, or being born into poverty are all some of the burdens that keep an individual from having a home.”

Consider Susan's (a fictional character) story: Like many Americans, Susan relies on her income to pay for housing, food, and entertainment. She unexpectedly inherits a disability, causing her to lose her job. The little compensation she receives doesn't come close to covering her living needs and her current housing. She has failed to find a new job because of her disability. She still needs to pay her rent—but where can she get the money? She is an only child, her mother passed away, and her father is in a nursing home. Her only close friends live in city apartments with roommates, prohibiting her from temporarily moving in.

A month ago, Susan was living as a typical American citizen. Now she can no longer pay for her housing. Now she is

without a home.

Disabilities are just one possibility of how you, I, or our neighbors can become homeless. Doe waved me over to sit down on the curb outside Crossroads shelter. Those around eyed us suspiciously, but John paid no attention to their looks. His eyes that had glanced about before now focused on me. "Once you get caught up in the justice system, there's no getting out." He leaned forward, shifting his weight toward his feet, barely sitting on the curb. "It's the same old thing. I'll apply for a job and they tell me I got it at the interview. But when I call back, they keep telling me they're reviewing my application. They keep saying that." Doe was convicted for a felony several years ago. He's done his time, but his record still keeps him from getting a job. No job, no money. No money, no home.

"I need a home," he said. "I need something to push me to keep working."

But having a disability, getting caught up in the justice system, or being born into poverty are all some of the burdens that keep an individual from having a home. As Hirsch said, "Any society that can't provide housing for its people is a failure morally and practically. . . . I don't think there's any reason to have homelessness." Hirsch also described how permanent housing, as opposed to temporary shelters, could end homelessness. Such housing would provide those in need with educational, mental, and health services for an unlimited amount of time. Currently, however, Rhode Island currently only offers the homeless temporary aid.

Without providing permanent support and services to an individual in desperate need, how can one escape the cycle of poverty and its effects? Hirsch spoke of the viscous cycle of homelessness, to prevent people from trying to escape the problem.

But Doe, who has been to the shelter several times before, summed it up quite well, saying, "You see the same faces here each time."

Studying abroad: A partial cure for ignorance



Just
Czechin' In

BY SHANNON OBEY '08
COMMENTARY STAFF

Thanksgiving came and went, and with it went the desire to return to the States. As of December 1st, the final countdown began, leaving me only with 16 days left in the beautiful Prague. Having so little time here has made me start reflecting on this voyage and how much I have grown since I got on the flight at Logan three-and-a-half months ago.

Before I came, I will admit I was blind to other cultures, spoke much too loudly, and was somewhat culturally insensitive. Now looking around at the tourists who visit Prague, I am embarrassed that they have an American accent and that I am from the same country as they are; they are simply rude and do not even try to speak slower to people who only speak a little English. Not only that, but having always gone to a school like Providence my whole life, I was not accustomed to diversity. After living abroad and being immersed in a different culture, I wish now that I had not been so sheltered in my life.

I have come to the conclusion that colleges should require students to live

abroad for a semester. Yes, plenty of people travel to Europe, but there is a difference between visiting a country and being completely enveloped in a culture and seeing how other people outside of the United States live and view our country. I was in for a real culture shock when I came to Prague, but I feel as though I am in for an even bigger one when I come back. I do not believe that anyone—except other students who study abroad—will understand the experience in quite the same way.

Even if you believe that the behavior in the United States is acceptable, not everyone sees that. Most believe that Americans are rude, loud, and bossy. And, after viewing Americans in Prague, I can now understand why they think that. Even my father did not realize he was being culturally insensitive when he came to visit, and it made me realize that most people cannot see it unless they live like the other. It is the same as knowing the other side of an argument so you can better defend your position, and "knowing the other side" in this case would involve walking in another culture's shoes, or perhaps living in a foreign country if you have the opportunity.

Another reason students should study abroad for a semester is to learn to appreciate things they take for granted on an everyday basis, such as family, friends, and holidays and—although this may not apply to everyone, the ability to see either family or friends whenever you please. It makes me never want to sit on the couch and watch a movie again when I could be

enjoying the company of real, live people.

Not only are the big things taken for granted, but the small things are as well: Laundry dryers, Easy Mac, microwaves, cars, soup in cans, the dollar (although that's debatable with the exchange rate like it is), the English language, the ability to get a job, movies without subtitles. . . . the list goes on and on. And yet, if you never live without these things, you may never learn to fully appreciate the value of them.

Studying abroad is important to growth and maturity; going out on your own and trying to live somewhere different is daunting, but my one note of advice to all those deciding whether to do it or not is: Do it. It is hard to get everything together, and I remember running around getting signatures was the last thing I wanted to do when I had 10 page papers to write, but I found that it was completely worth it.

It would be nice if Providence College made it easier for students to experience this, but such is life. Maybe it is hard to weed out those who cannot handle it? I do not know. All I know is that you come back a different person who understands the world and what is going on in it much more thoroughly. This is important if you want to be a knowledgeable and well-rounded citizen, not only getting your information from one source. I obviously cannot force people to study abroad, (although I would if I could), and I know not everyone has not had the same amazing experience, but I truly recommend it. Ciao for the last time this year.

A swift kick from the political 'Ass'

BY KEVIN ROE '07
GUEST COMMENTARY

In his article in the Nov. 9, 2006 issue of *The Cowl*, Mark Scirocco '10 wrote comments that echo the falsehoods and outrageous innuendos that many conservatives seem intent on spreading ever since the Democrats won back the U.S. Congress in the 2006 midterm elections. Whether his statements were made out of ignorance, spite, or genuine concern, they are nonetheless, in my opinion, inaccurate and require a detailed response.

Let us begin by examining the record of the GOP-controlled Congress under the Bush Administration, as they relate to Scirocco's concerns.

Illegal immigration is the first concern. The Republican-controlled Congress, instead of examining real border security, comprehensive immigration reform, and economic indicators leading to such a program, decided to pass a hastily assembled, politically driven bill that simply builds a fence along our Southern border. Needless to say, this political stunt, which was held just prior to the election, shows little vision for true immigration reform and border security.

High taxes are another concern mentioned in the article. Well, people in this country are also a concern, specifically the middle class who are being killed by the Bush tax cuts. Aside from these tax cuts only benefiting the very, very top of the tax bracket, the Republican fiscal shortsightedness has caused massive structural deficits and immense international debt. Perhaps a more even tax policy is in order?

The quality of judicial appointment has also been brought into question. I need only point to Harriet Miers to show how many Bush Republicans feel about the same issue. Of course, there is the problem of activist judges. Republicans constantly complain about activist judges, unless of course the judges are consistent with their own ideology. But blatant disrespect for court precedent (including *Roe v. Wade*), unprecedented expanse of power to the president, and support for un-Constitutional domestic spying and torture? Seems activist to me.

Finally, the article speaks of the issue of terrorism. Like former Majority Leader Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., Scirocco believes

that "liberals and terrorists are on the same page." In addition to being outrageous and slanderous, this is simply false. Congressional Republicans have failed in this regard. Our ports and our borders remain unsecured, Osama Bin Laden remains at large, and our do-nothing Congress has provided no oversight in the prosecution of the ongoing Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

We need to move beyond the nasty partisanship (which thankfully, many have), and our Congress has to get to work. We need comprehensive economic reform, including tax relief for the middle class, job creation, a balanced budget, and affordable higher education. We need a strategy in Iraq and in the war on terror, and also Congressional oversight of the president and officers—to ensure our troops not only are guided by sound leadership but also that they have the resources to fight the insurgency. We need a healthcare system that works for everyone, in which the government can bargain for lower drug prices, fill the coverage gap, and make real progress in curing ravaging diseases through stem cell research. And perhaps most importantly, we need a nationalized energy policy in which we are no longer dependent on Middle East oil, to do this we must investigate clean, renewable energy sources and keep prices affordable for working families.

The Republican Congress has failed to deliver any meaningful policy initiatives to this country, and its failure to act has evicted many of them. I commend President Bush and many Republicans for their proposed willingness to rise above politics and search for real solutions to the problems our nation faces. My cautious optimism is rooted in the hope that the president will work in good faith with Congressional Democrats for our own sake.

Our ability to move forward as Americans depends on our willingness to reach across the aisle after a contentious series of elections. Instead of shooting politically motivated barbs at the new guys, maybe we all should re-examine our superstitions about Democrats and liberals in general. I believe you will find much of what you've been told to be false and may even find a brighter day for America, just beyond January.

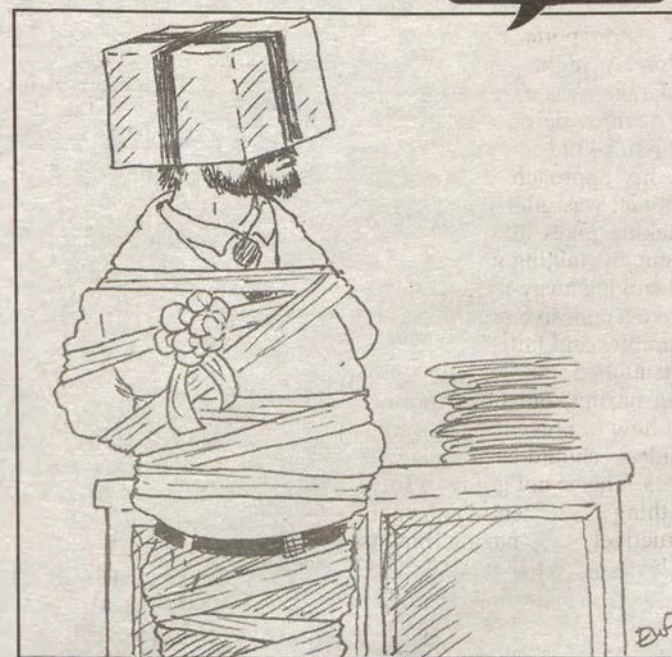
breastfeeding has become a political act.

I'm glad I spilled my coffee and was a few minutes late to class that day. Gillette's saga concerning her fight to breastfeed her child put a stop to my fast-paced day and made me realize that what is natural in life should always be embraced.

Sources: *mothering.com*

BY ERIC FULFORD '08
COMMENTARY STAFF

TOO
HOT FOR
WORDS



Dr. Larkin became the last professor to call his final exam a "surprise Christmas present" before distributing it.

Tangents and Tirades

A crazy guy with long hair. Over the weekend, my friends and I were having a swell Friday night hanging out, drinking apple juice, and listening to some sweet tunes when someone had the awesome idea to start playing Andrew W.K. Initially, we were not impressed by the song selection, but as we started to really listen to the deep lyrics at the loudest volume our stereo could handle, we gained a much greater appreciation for this underrated musician. Few people can make a successful music career by screaming an entire album filled with four-minute songs that are literally all about partying, but Andrew W.K. pulls it off with ease. W.K. looks like he hasn't cut his hair or taken a shower in two years, and the only thing he ever wears in public is a wife beater, acid-wash jeans, and white Reebok high-top sneakers. Most people would not be caught dead wearing Andrew W.K.'s wardrobe, but somehow it only makes him seem that much cooler. So with this being the last week of school, do yourself a favor and finish out the semester with a bang with everyone's friend, Andrew W.K. Thanks to Andrew W.K., forming one-man moshpits in the common room and body slamming your dinner table will gain you an immeasurable amount of respect from your fellow students.—**Aiden Redmond '08**

Kramer getting the upperhand of a double-standard? Several weeks ago, while doing a stand-up skit at a Los Angeles comedy club, actor Michael Richards called an African-American heckler the "N" word and yelled "Forty years ago we would have stuck a fork up your ass." Despite his blatant racism, Richards was treated relatively gently by the mainstream media and the "leaders" in the African-American community. When Richards appeared on the "Late Show with David Letterman" to apologize for what he said, Letterman seemed to not be bothered in the least bit by Richards' comments. Would Mel Gibson, a Catholic conservative, have been given the same treatment if he appeared on Letterman's show to apologize for drunkenly criticizing the Jews? In reference to "Kramer's" tirade, Jesse Jackson said "We've put all this focus on this sick comedian and ignored the impact of Trent Lott..." According to Jackson, Lott—a Republican who once complimented former Senator Strom Thurman—deserves harsher treatment than Richards, a Hollywood liberal. The elites in the media and show biz have once again illustrated the double-standard of taking those on the right to task for their actions while treating left-wingers with care and consideration.—**Mark Scirocco '10**

Success in a papal visit. The world can let loose its bated breath and can embrace a very fruitful papal trip, which allayed issues as disparate as Turkey's nomination to the European Union, Orthodox and Catholic relations, Muslim and Western relations, and admonishing western values. Pope Benedict XVI is not only willing to raise unpopular truths, but he is also willing to actively work toward finding solutions and beneficial dialogues to such controversial truths. One such dialogue now opened by this visit is an increasing necessary East-West dialogue between the extremely religious Muslim East and the overwhelmingly secular West. Although Benedict raised important concerns of Islam's sometimes militant aspects, he has always been a strong critic of Western materialism and secularism. In his trip, the Pope invited Muslim believers to stand beside their Christian neighbors to counteract the modern West's wayward principles. Perhaps for this reason too, Benedict condoned Turkey's bid to enter the European Union, which he had previously been against. While trusting in providential protection in the midst of this daunting trip, the Pope visited the famous Blue Mosque in Istanbul, while being guided by the city's Grand Mufti. Besides this, Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch of the Orthodox Church, attended a Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict. Great strides such as these bode well for future relations between the East and West.—**Andrew Sparks '09**

Cowl Letters Policy

The Cowl welcomes guest commentaries and letters to the editor from all members of the Providence College community, as well as outside contributors.

All submissions must include the writer's name, signature, and a phone number where he or she can be reached. Articles will be printed as space permits. Letters should be no more than 250 words in length. Guest commentaries should be limited to 700 words in length, and only one will be published per week. *The Cowl* editorial board and its administrative supervisors reserve the right to edit articles for space and clarity.

However, if there is a portion you specifically wish to remain unchanged, please inform the Editor-in-Chief. Letters to the editor are the

opinions of the writer only and do not reflect the viewpoint of *The Cowl* staff.

Submissions must be delivered, mailed, or faxed to *The Cowl* office no later than 5 p.m. on the Monday before publication. Mail submissions to Box 2981 Providence, RI 02918; fax to 401-865-1202; submit online at www.thecowl.com, e-mail to thecowl@providence.edu; or hand deliver to *The Cowl* Office in Slavin G05. Call 401-856-2241 with any questions.

Weekly Subscription Rate is \$30.00 per year by mail. Student subscription is included in tuition fee. Correspondence can be mailed directly to:
The Cowl, Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island 02918.

Nurturing: Is breastfeeding in public offensive?

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able with a major part of human development and human existence. It is inherent to the very act of parenting. This issue has opened up national discussions about breastfeeding policies that exist in different companies and institutions throughout the country. We are at the point at which

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Letters to the Editor:

Mandatory hazing lecture ineffective

I am appalled and outraged by the mandatory hazing speech that all clubs, organizations, and sports teams had to attend on Monday night. The presenter, Judge Mitch Crane, was extremely offensive, making various derogatory remarks about women and homosexuals. Furthermore, his approach to hazing, a very serious topic, was utterly inappropriate. While making jokes and wasting the audience's time by talking to individual members and moving away from the topic, he tried to make a cohesive argument with "real life" examples and failed.

Yes, he mentioned the atrocities that happen during hazing, but he mentioned nothing about how to prevent them except to say that students should be friends with their club mates. This is not going to solve anything. Nothing was mentioned about how to constructively stop hazing, how to be aware of hazing practices, or how to recognize when hazing has gone too far.

As a judge, Crane, barely even mentioned the legal ramifications; he merely read the

Rhode Island law on hazing. In addition, I have no idea why it was mandatory for all clubs and organizations. For the most part, clubs do not have exclusive memberships and are open to all on campus. Why would anyone be suspicious that the Philosophy Club, Amnesty International, or Women Will (just to name a few) would ever participate in something like hazing?

Yes, there are problems on campus with hazing, but it is because those clubs, organizations, and sports teams who participate in exclusive, destructive actions have lost their true mission and have become substitutes for the lack of on-campus sororities and fraternities. Creating sororities and fraternities is also not the answer, but a reconsideration of the goals of these clubs which participate in such activities is in order. I expected more from the Board of Programers than an irrelevant speech based more in entertainment than education.

—Monica de Aguiar '07

A lesson in the diversity question through reflection

I encourage you, the reader, in your spare time, to do four things: 1) Take a ride on the No. 55 bus downtown to Kennedy Plaza. Listen to the conversations people are having. Look at what they are wearing. Observe what they look like. Look at the stops at which they get off.

2) Walk up to Thayer Street. Listen to the people's conversations. Look at which they are wearing. Observe what they look like. Look at what they are doing and what stores, shops, and restaurants they go into.

3) Take the No. 50 back to Douglas and Eaton Street. Do what you did when taking the No. 55.

4) As you walk back to Providence College, reflect on what you have observed.

Here is my reflection: You can continue

to convince yourselves that while Providence College is not the most ethnically diverse college, that we are still indeed a diverse college on other levels. You can force yourself to believe that there are many different religious affiliations among students, and that they have varying political views and unique personalities. Or you can realize that in reality, most students at PC are not just similar in terms of their ethnicity. You can realize that most people here are Roman Catholic, semi-conservative, facsimile representations of each other. In truth, if PC kids were so different from one another, I wouldn't have to go looking elsewhere for a place that wasn't so boringly the same day in, day out.

—Carolyn Creary '09

Clarifying a point

I felt that Kristina Reardon '08 misrepresented me in her article on diversity in the Nov. 9 issue of *The Cowl*, so I wanted to submit this letter as a clarification of my stance on the issue of diversity at PC. I am in complete agreement that diversity is a beneficial thing for our campus. Having different kinds of people allows students to grow and learn, and to be presented with insights that they have never before encountered. My point was not that diversity is not beneficial, but rather that putting too much emphasis on skin color makes students judge others on what they look like, rather than on what they have to offer as individuals.

On that same note, my point about the

scholarships was not to say that students with minority scholarships did not deserve to be here and did not work hard to get them but rather that equating color with poverty was demeaning and took away from people who happened to come from a low-income background and be white. Acceptance of all people is of the utmost importance—especially at a place like Providence—and people who are at a financial disadvantage deserve to get the help they undoubtedly need to succeed. Overcompensating, however, keeps the focus on one's skin color rather than on his or her attributes, and abilities and widens the gap that is trying to be bridged.

—Lynne Shea '10

A sad excuse for an argument

In response to Michael Rubin '08's article "Taking another look at diversity" in the Nov. 16, 2006 issue of *The Cowl*, people like Rubin and arguments like this are what doom this college to an ignorant and nearly completely homogeneous student body. The main reasoning behind Rubin's argument is based on a "may" which he then continues to liberally apply to all minority applicants. Simply because one minority applicant "may" not have, as Rubin says, the "eloquence" to contribute to the "cultural dialogue" on campus, suddenly all minority applicants have lost the ability to do so?

One cannot lump all minority applicants into one large category. Providence College is lacking in cultural diversity, and I feel many people on this campus are coming up with paper-thin arguments to keep themselves in a blissful yet deeply disturbing peace. As for the discussion of minority scholarships, sadly, I feel they are necessary at PC in order to attract minority applicants because of the horrible reputation this school has earned for itself in terms of diversity. To put it simply, we are sheltered on this campus, and we all know it. I cannot count the times a visiting par-

ent has asked me about the diversity situation within the first five minutes of being on campus grounds.

I would hate to wake you up from your daydream, but the sad fact of the matter is that this school is full of cookie-cutter images of each other. The only questions at this school that differentiate most students from one another are, "How many boats do you own?" Although this letter comes off as heated (and indeed it is meant to be), Rubin is one example of this kind of thought that poisons the minds of many on this campus. We are clearly lacking in diversity of all kinds at PC, and so many of us are content to sit back and allow it to continue. I do not know whether it is because most students are afraid to meet others who aren't conservative Irish Catholics, or whether they are simply too lazy and too comfortable in their positions as accepted college students to want to do anything about it.

You can keep coming up with these petty schemes to rationalize away why there is almost no diversity on this campus, but it will not make the problem go away.

—Andrew Smink '08

Far from 'worse off' with Democrats in control

In his article "Life after the 'Donkey' kicked its way into power" in the Nov. 16 issue of *The Cowl*, Mark Scirocco '10 unfairly and inaccurately claims that our country will be worse off under Democratic rule, and that liberals and terrorists are "on the same page." Scirocco refers to the onset of illegal immigrants into our country as something that will further erode our national identity, increase the crime rate, and take jobs away from citizens. Is not our own history one that has been shaped by immigration, both legal and illegal?

It was not that long ago that the "majority" of Americans looked down upon Irish, Italian, and other European immigrants in exactly the same way that many Republicans do today. To say that these immigrants are taking away jobs from citizens is ridiculous. Not only do many of these immigrants work multiple jobs just to survive, but many of them work jobs that most Americans would never dream of doing. The inaccurate claim is made that the economy is "currently doing well" but that this will not continue with the onset of more taxes by Democrats. For the large majority of middle and lower-class citizens, life is becoming harder and harder to

afford, and while wages continue to stagnate. The disparity in wealth in our country has been growing for more than 30 years, causing the middle-class to squeeze more than it ever has before to survive. How can one possibly justify the way that the Republicans have handled this issue?

Another flawed claim Scirocco made is that liberal "activist judges" will impose their own predilection on the people, such as their personal view of abortion or gay marriage. Isn't this exactly what conservative, right-wing judges have been doing? By making gay marriage illegal, wouldn't this actually be writing discrimination into the Constitution; the same document that was designed specifically to protect minority rights? What ever happened to common decency and empathy for our common man?

The elections were about change and were a call by Americans, from all parts of our country, to change the way that the current Bush-led Republican administration has been leading our country. I think that by rejecting the Republican ideology our country has given itself a chance for a brighter future.

—Brent Gilbert '07

Taking the 'Christ' out of the Christmas season



BY KYLE DRENNEN '07
COMMENTARY STAFF

POLITICS

The holiday season is upon us once again. As many people hurry from store to store in search of the perfect gift, they may not even notice the absence of a common phrase associated with this time of year: Merry Christmas! Over the past few years a rather heated controversy has arisen, as some major stores across the country have established official policies of not using the word Christmas in any of their holiday advertising. Fortunately, thanks to public pressure, some stores such as Wal-Mart have reinstated Merry Christmas this year.

There are many people who hear discussion of this controversy and simply see it as a ridiculous issue stirred up by political pundits like Bill O'Reilly. However, the fact that certain stores have decided to intentionally avoid using the word Christmas is the truly ridiculous idea. In the past, no one thought twice of being greeted with a Merry Christmas as they entered a store, so why should this change? Some would argue that they want to avoid offending anyone who does not celebrate

the holiday. This is a perfectly valid point, but since the vast majority of Americans do celebrate the holiday (sometimes even people of other faiths) why not use the word Christmas as well as have mixture of other holidays represented? In addition, stores could also use generic phrases such as "Happy Holidays" or "Seasons Greetings." There is no need to specifically exclude particular holidays.

At the end of the day, private businesses can choose to advertise however they see fit. Consumers then have the right to respond to those advertising decisions. Clearly Wal-Mart felt that it could potentially lose customers if it refused to use the word Christmas in its stores so the store reversed its decision. Other stores continue to avoid the word and do not think it will negatively affect their business. The real issue behind this controversy is the emerging fear that there seems to be toward anything religious in modern society. From legal efforts to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance to preventing a trailer of the movie *The Nativity Story* from being played at a Christmas festival on public property in Chicago, religion appears to be under assault.

Some would argue that these particular issues are matters of separation of Church and

state and are legitimate to examine. However, the separation of Church and State was designed to prevent the government from having control over a particular religion. Our founding fathers wanted to avoid a situation like the Church of England, in which state leaders had both political and religious authority over the people. If our government were to start telling us exactly when and where we are allowed to express our religious views, would not that reduce our religious freedom? It would be dangerous for the government to control any one religion, but does that mean we should give it the authority to regulate the practice of all religion?

“What we really need to ask ourselves is whether or not a politician saying a prayer or school children saying the word God really inhibits our government from being able to treat people of all religious backgrounds equally.”

”The founders of this nation were religious men and saw faith as an important

and positive force in society. They also saw the need for a certain degree of government impartiality when it comes to such matters. What we really need to ask ourselves is whether or not a politician saying a prayer or school children saying the word God really inhibits our government from being able to treat people of all religious backgrounds equally. I for one would be more concerned with a government that preaches no commitment to any kind of faith than one in which leaders adhere to a mixture of faiths. After all Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union—two of the most atrocious regimes in modern history responsible for the genocide of millions of people—were both essentially atheist, making the state their god.

All of us should learn to respect one another's faith and not try to pretend that it does not exist. Religion helps to foster morality in society, and almost all faiths teach respect toward fellow human beings. We can all agree upon these fundamental concepts. The true meaning of Christmas is the idea of thinking of others before oneself. Why would anyone not want to endorse that? I hope everyone has a happy Chanukah, Kwanza, or Ramadan and I want to wish all of you Seasons Greetings, Happy Holidays, and a Merry Christmas!

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228-3004

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The Winter



Movie Preview



Picks by Chris Tompkins '09

To see . . .

1.

Children of Men
Directed by Alfonso Cuarón
Starring Clive Owen, Julianne Moore, Michael Caine
Release Date: Dec. 25

Recently, the filmmaking institutions of the world have become very aware of the public obsession with terrorism and unease concerning the future. *Children of Men* looks to continue the recent tradition of movies that explore terror and how societies react to it, a motif that can also be seen in *V for Vendetta* and *Munich*. The narrative follows a disenchanted ex-political activist as he is charged with the task of aiding the last fertile woman in an apocalyptic world. It certainly looks like a great look into a possible future, and with the dark mind of Alfonso Cuarón at the helm, I don't see how it could miss.

2.

The Good German
Directed by Steven Soderbergh
Starring George Clooney, Cate Blanchett, Toby Maguire
Release date: Dec. 15 (limited)

Welcome back to the world of classic film noir. Steven Soderbergh's adaptation of Joseph Kanon's novel looks to have all the elements of a classic Hitchcock or John Huston suspense thriller, from its prying journalist to the femme fatale. Only film equipment from the 1940s was used, and the actors were told to play their parts in classic presentational style. We are led by George Clooney through post World War II Germany, where he becomes involved in the murder mystery of an ex-lover's husband. This film doesn't seem to have as much Oscar buzz as one would think, but any person who appreciates or studies classic film should definitely see it.

Not to see . . .

1.

Rocky Balboa
Directed by Sylvester Stallone
Starring Sylvester Stallone, Antonio Traver, Burt Young
Release Date: Dec. 20

The plot of the newest installment of the *Rocky* saga looks like it directly relates to Sylvester Stallone's career. A washed-up, middle-aged guy who has nothing but his hope and drive makes one last attempt at that feeling he once had. Stallone was certainly born to play Rocky (he was pretty fit to play Rambo as well, but they're the same character). It is understandable that he doesn't want to let go of the only thing he is good at. I just hope *Rocky Balboa* is good enough to maintain the credibility of the first four movies. I don't know if the saga can withstand two terrible films.

2.

Blood Diamond
Directed by Edward Zwick
Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Connelly, Djimon Hounsou
Release Date: Dec. 8

Though this film has some of the most Oscar buzz of the season, it seems safe to remain skeptical. Djimon Hounsou looks terrific in *Blood Diamond*, but it is still difficult to get past DiCaprio's questionable accent and how melodramatic the plot looks. The sorrow and plight of the African people is a little played out and not all that tasteful. It looks as though director Edward Zwick and company are merely attempting to capitalize on the recent success of movies like *Hotel Rwanda* and *The Last King of Scotland*. If I were you, I'd look to be more depressed than captivated by this story.

Picks by Deanna Cioppa '07

To see . . .

1.

The Good Shepherd
Directed by Robert De Niro
Starring Matt Damon, Angelina Jolie, William Hurt
Release Date: Dec. 22

What first drew me to *The Good Shepherd* was (shock of a lifetime) the top of the line casting job. Matt Damon, Angelina Jolie, the brilliant John Turturro, William Hurt, Alec Baldwin, and Michael Gambon all star in this tale of the origins of the CIA through the rose-colored glasses of a young agent named Edward Wilson (Damon). Robert De Niro directs in his first time behind the camera since *A Bronx Tale* (1993), one of my favorites. Damon has the talent for the role of Wilson, whose initial ideals turn into an intense Cold War paranoia, and whose dedication goes too far. This is definitely one to see.

2.

The Painted Veil
Directed by John Curran
Starring Naomi Watts and Edward Norton
Release Date: Dec. 29 (limited)

Edward Norton is one of my favorite actors, and his performance alone is a reason to see this film based on the novel by W. Somerset Maugham. Watts plays the wife of a middle class doctor (Norton) who commits adultery. In a truly twisted act of vengeance, he relocates the two of them to a remote village in China under siege from cholera. What they find there, and the trials they endure, make for a potentially magnificent film. Norton's capacity for sensitivity and cruelty, Watts' tragic brand of beauty, and the magic of the Chinese countryside have me very excited for this one.

Not to see . . .

1.

Black Christmas
Directed by Glen Morgan
Starring Michelle Trachtenberg and Katie Cassidy
Release Date: Dec. 25

When will Hollywood slasher remakes, sequels, prequels, and spin-offs end? Oh, the horror! If the morbid title and C-list sorority types don't scare you away, then you have a stronger stomach than I imagined. In this 1974 remake, a group of sorority girls is (gasp!) harassed over the phone and then killed off one by one during Christmas break. A hokey plotline and a star whose big claim to fame was *Ice Princess*? Like, oh my God! I cannot imagine anything else I would like to see less.

2.

Eragon
Directed by Stefen Fangmeier
Starring Edward Speleers, John Malkovich, Djimon Hounsou
Release Date: Dec. 15

The first book of the *Inheritance Trilogy* by the young Christopher Paolini is set to hit theaters in a week, and I for one, could not care less. The film, which tells the story of a young man's quest to become a dragon-rider and save his countrymen from the evil schemings of a tyrannical king, is being touted as the next *Harry Potter* or *Lord of the Rings*. It is in fact a bit of each mixed with some truly cheesy CGI and epic one-liners by the likes of Jeremy Irons and John Malkovich. With all that thrown at audiences in advance, this film already voids itself of the magic of its predecessors.

A&E: Helping to spre

*We took a photo with Santa, did some Christmas shopping,
Enjoy our lists and have*



Santa,

Being the materialist I am, this is, of course, a much abbreviated list. Expect more lists within the week, but here. Get started.

1. For my wonderful group of Arts and Entertainment writers to make all their deadlines next semester.
2. The original of that really insane painting "The Scream."
3. For people to stop picking on Mel Gibson. Look, the guy was drunk. You know how it is. When you are drunk you cannot be held accountable for anything you say or do.
4. An old fuselage of a Boeing 747 jet. It boggles my mind that Boeing scraps their jets after they cannot fly anymore. Why not sell them? How crazy would that be if you had a plane in your back yard?
5. To be stranded on an island with only Scarlett Johansson and a priest to hear my confession.
6. Everyone seems to be asking for peace this year. So I think I'll have some too. Yeah how about the chocolate piece, although the cherry one looks good too?
7. Remember when I asked for a Sega Genesis? Well, now I wish the world would rid itself of video games, and subsequently, laziness.
8. To be a guest host on Ebert & Roeper while Ebert is recovering.
9. After this break to never work at Pleasure Island again.
10. 10 pipers piping.



Dear Santa,

I would like . . .

1. A new six string double-neck bass.
2. An Ant Farm or Sea-Monkeys.
3. A copy of Prince's film *Purple Rain*.
4. A ping pong table . . . for ping pong.
5. Moon Boots . . . for the moon.
6. The Richard Nixon and Ronald Regan walkie-talkie set.
7. A subscription to Netflix.
8. An eBay gift certificate.
9. A Sugar Ray poster.
10. Animaniacs on DVD.

Thanks,
Chris

Stay tuned for more,
James



ad the Christmas spirit

and then wrote our lists while enjoying cookies and eggnog.
a very merry Christmas.

Oh hey Santa,

Quick question: I know you give presents to nice kids and coal to naughty ones, but what if I've just been pretty ambivalent about everything? Anyway, if you can swing this list, I'd probably love you forever.

1. For Ashlee Simpson to have a sudden epiphany and join a convent somewhere in the tundra of Siberia, never to be heard from or seen again.
2. Seniors take back Louie's. Don't stop believin'.
3. A job at *Alternative Press/Rolling Stone/Spin*.
4. For Elton John and Bernie Taupin to officially change the words to be "Hold Me Closer Tony Danza."
5. Free Antonio's and Gordito Burrito for the rest of my life.
6. To wake up in the morning with the ability to breakdance, skateboard, play the drums, and be on time.
7. To be sponsored by Puma, Hurley, and Vans just for existing.
8. A Soul Train Music Award. If only for the potential to make up an outrageous story about it.
9. Newport Storm installs a tap of Flanders I.P.A. next to my desk, hooked up to an unlimited source.
10. Peace on Earth, goodwill toward men, and to make enough money after I graduate so that I can eat.

Thanks guy, you're the best.
Kisses,
Jess McCauley



Dear Santa:

This Year, I demand:

1. An NCAA tournament birth for the PC Friars basketball team.
2. A collaboration album from Nas & DJ Premier.
3. The NFL network on basic cable. Missing Thursday night games is unacceptable.
4. *The Cowl* to have a full color comics section.
5. Guitar Hero II for PS2.
6. The Boston Bruins to make the playoffs.
7. ESPN to focus on sports, not behind-the-scenes drama.
8. Touchdown celebrations allowed in the NFL—all the T.V. stations show them anyway.
9. A *South Park* On Demand channel
10. Peace and love for my family.

Thanks a lot,
Ryan

Hey Big Guy,

Bring your red-suit booty-shaking self down my chimney with:

1. A new Radiohead album.
2. For the Mets to get Tommy Glavine back. (Thanks, Santa.)
3. You know, world peace.
4. A Segway (unnecessary technology at its finest).
5. To live inside Tom Stoppard's mind for just one day.
6. A job. Too much to ask?
7. A digital camera so I can take pictures in Istanbul and Athens this June.
8. The original CD single of "Back to my Roots" by RuPaul.
9. Mike Coyne's autograph.
10. To see the sun rise over the Rocky Mountains.

Joe

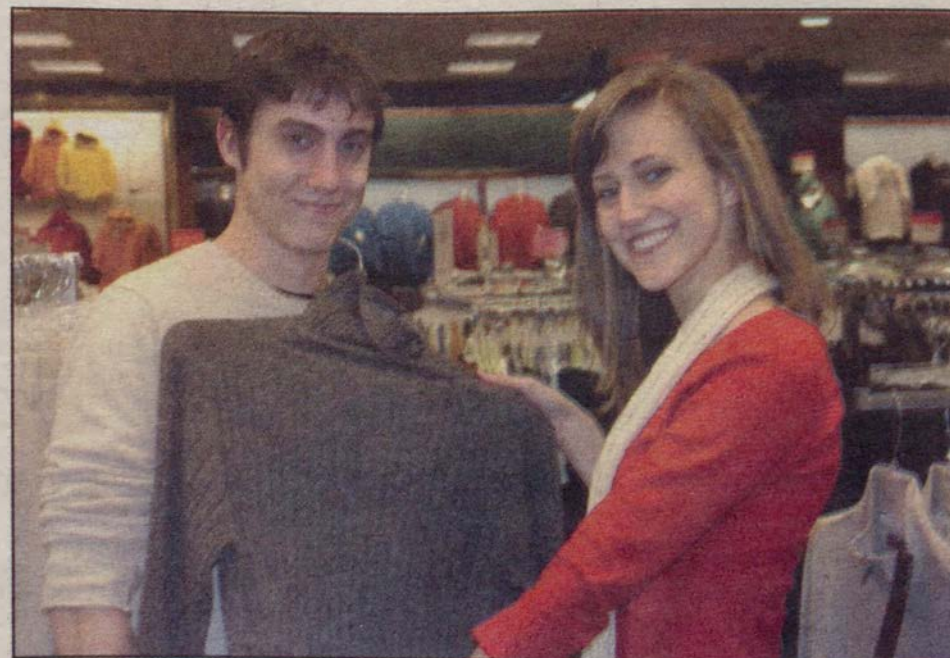


Dear Chris,

If by some administrative mistake I have ended up on your 'nice' list, then please help with the following for Christmas:

1. For rock bands to stop dressing like depressed girls.
2. To wake up on New Year's Day with my cell phone, wallet, and dignity accounted for.
3. One more dance floor make-out at Prime Time.
4. For Old's to rid itself of the plague of children that has descended upon it.
5. To never see my grade in Ethics. I already know that I'm a bad person and don't need the documentation to prove it.
6. To regain the self-respect lost in the below picture.
7. For a violent earthquake to set Jersey adrift in the Atlantic.
8. The immediate secession of Texas.
9. For techno to go back underground (ravers included).
10. For Madonna to keep her clothes on and her mouth shut.

Love always and forever,
Owen



Dear Sir or Madam,

Merry Christmas! I would have Facebooked you with my list sooner, but I was too busy creating a group for Right Handed People who Enjoy Baby Corn, "Rock'em Sock'em Robots," CDs one and three of the Billy Joel Boxed Set, and Staplers. Anyway, read on.

1. Thirty-six hours in a day. Two-dozen ain't working for me.
2. "David the Gnome" DVD Anthology.
3. An end to velour. Make that a bloody end.
4. A renaissance for Jake Busey. Not that he deserves it. But it's Christmas, after all.
5. *Love Actually II, III, IV, and V*. Because you can't ever have too much quirky, awkward British holidays love-fests.
6. The demise of those brain-meltingly terrible Dunkin' Donuts commercials. "Fritalian?" Really? Make it look like an accident.
7. Peace on earth.
8. ~~A year's subscription to *The Cowl*.~~ Assorted paper-clips.
9. A set of talking *The Departed* action figures (now with more authentic Boston accents!).
10. A platinum grill (for teeth, not burgers).

Love,
Deanna

Dear Santa,

I hope I've been a good girl again this year. Here is what I want for Christmas:

1. I'm sure that every senior in the history of A&E has asked for this, but I would like a job when I graduate. I swear I need it more than everybody else.
2. James Bond as my date to commencement.
3. For Liz Rubin '07 to stop saying inappropriate things to me.
4. For Sayid to rescue Kate, Sawyer, and Jack from the Others.
5. A personal stylist and an unlimited amount of clothes and shoes.
6. For Trixie's Baby Phat bathrobe.
7. The wink wink tap nibble nibble slide.
8. Round trip cab fare to the Providence Radisson.
9. For Guther to perform the spring concert at PC.
10. For you to get my roommates anything they ask for because they helped me write this list.

Love always,
Katie

Picks of the Week

By Greg Hartwell '07
Sports Staff



Movie

Run Ronnie Run
Directed by Troy Miller

It is time that we had ourselves a CHAMPAGNE JAM!!! The brain child of David Cross and Bob Odenkirk (HBO's *Mr. Show* fame), Ronwell Quincy Dobbs comes to us straight out of the heartland of America. This good old boy has an affinity for drinking and causing mayhem. A struggling British inventor takes Ronnie and creates an amazing reality show in which our hero gets arrested, repeatedly. Complete with music videos, segments from Cops, and a messed-up dog who eats his own vomit, this hilarious comedy makes Stephen Hawking feel stupid and makes the night Lincoln was shot look like a peanut, a lowly little peanut.

Music

Trans-Siberian
Orchestra
The Christmas Trilogy
Lava/Atlantic

As Christmas rolls around the corner, there's no better way to get into the mood for the holiday than celebrating in the usual style: Heavy-metal Christmas music. With the radio stations blasting Christmas tunes as early as Thanksgiving, it gets boring to hear the same played-out jingles that have been around since Mary and Joseph held up in the manger. I tell you that there is no better way to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior than the way he intended. . . by head-banging and playing air guitar.



Book

Wiggle
Art by Scott Menchin
Story by Doreen Cronin

Cheerios has done it again. The geniuses over at General Mills have continued to produce extraordinarily nutritious cereal but has also dedicated its product to help better our minds. Including short stories like *Wiggle*, *Olivia*, and *Horace and Morris Join the Chorus* (but what about Dolores?). Cheerios is building a nation of healthy and intelligent individuals. *Wiggle* helped answer a lot of questions I had about wiggling in general and when it is appropriate to "wiggle." In conclusion, I am going to obtain the whole collection that Cheerios has to offer. 'Til next time "See you wiggle soon."

Urban Elements

Hip-hop heavyweights flood market with new albums

Ryan Burns '08 reviews albums from Jay-Z, Snoop Dogg, AZ, and The Clipse

BY RYAN BURNS '08
A&E STAFF

Each year, as the New England air gets colder and work starts to pile up, hip-hop fans are treated to a bevy of new releases. This year has been no different; some of the year's most anticipated albums have all been released within a few short weeks. With the holiday sales-push in mind, November can prove to be a desirable release month that is proven to help artists reach platinum status by Dec. 26.

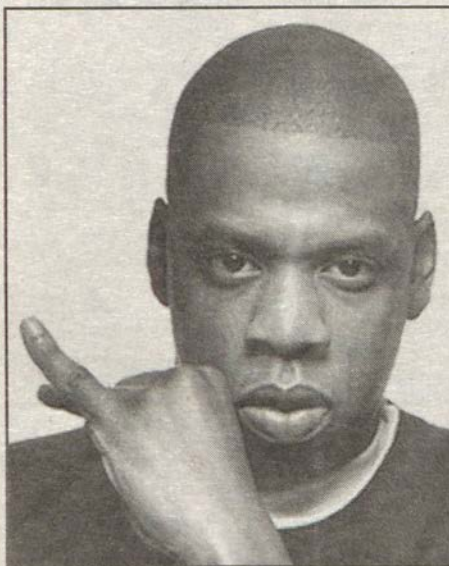
ALBUM REVIEW

The first album to come out last month was legendary Brooklyn artist AZ's *The Format*. One of the most underrated artists of our time, AZ's work ethic and productivity has never been greater. His new album features appearances by M.O.P., Little Brother, and production from DJ Premier. *The Format* is AZ's sixth studio album and keeps him on pace to quickly become one of the best lyricists in hip-hop history. The title track of the album, produced by Premier, takes the listener back to New York circa 1995, to teach the listener where he came from. Although AZ professes to be an underground artist, he has never been afraid to dabble in the mainstream, although the attempt on this album, "Doing That," seems a bit rushed and is quite out of place on the album. The 12-track LP is a bit short and could have been sequenced better, but overall it is enough for AZ to maintain his place in the game.

Next up was the celebrated return of Jay-Z with his new album, *Kingdom Come*. Ever since his "retirement" in 2004, the hip-hop community has wondered where and when Jay would return to the rap game. *Kingdom Come* is a bit of a departure from his earlier work, as it is overly personal, dealing with loss, struggle, and life as a grown man.

Jay faces reality with this album in the sense that he is an adult and shouldn't be caught up in the juvenile lifestyle that plagues so many artists. "Beach Chair," featuring Coldplay's Chris Martin, is a retrospective about Jay's life and future, while "Lost Ones" describes his split from former business partner Dame Dash and his relationship with Beyonce. Steer clear of "Anything," featuring Pharrell and Usher, unless you want to hear the most awkward Jay track ever. The production on this album is outstanding as well. It also features Dr. Dre, Just Blaze, and Kanye West.

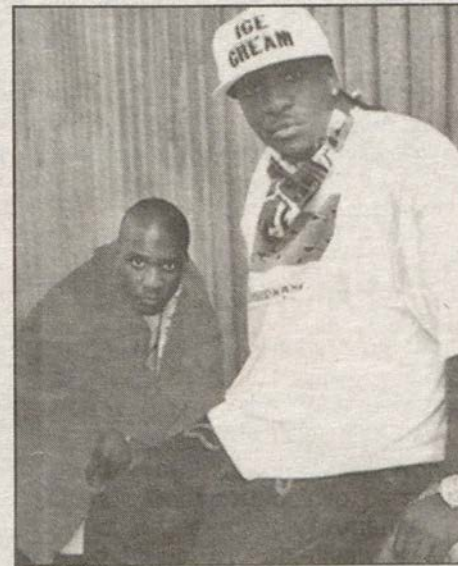
Released on the same day as *Kingdom Come*, was West Coast legend Snoop Dogg's *The Blue Carpet Treatment*. The



ROC-A-FELLA



QUIET MONEY



STARTRAK



GEEFEN

Clockwise from top left: Jay-Z, The Clipse, Snoop Dogg, and AZ. Four heavy-weight artists released new albums in November, and each is worthy of a listen.

release puts Snoop right back in the lime-light, doing his best to unite the West Coast in hopes that its eventual resurgence will change the hip-hop game.

"Think About It" is easily the most impressive lyrical performance since his Death Row days, as he flawlessly flows over a jazzy beat. Snoop shows love to just about every major west coast artist on this album, displaying a sense of maturity and unity. Some songs are clearly club anthems and songs for the ladies, but are quickly forgotten due to tracks such as "Get a Light," featuring Damien Marley.

The production gets a bit redundant on this album, but the last two songs alone justify a purchase. "Imagine" features Dr. Dre and D'Angelo. It asks the listener to imagine a better world and life. "Conversations" is another amazing track, with none other than Stevie Wonder lending his talents to a bouncy g-funk beat which sounds right at home. *The Blue Carpet Treatment* is certainly Snoop's return to his roots.

The most recent album to drop was The

Clipse's sophomore effort, *Hell Hath No Fury*. This album was the most surprising of these four to come out. The brothers from Virginia amassed a fan base unparalleled to their previous one. Since their last album came out, their record label Jive has been hesitant to put out their music, pushing back the release date of *Hell Hath No Fury* since 2004.

The album is entirely produced by The Neptunes, who add their blend of space-age funk and bass-heavy beats to Pusha T and Malice's unique wordplay. The album's short length—it has only 12 songs—hurts The Clipse's attempt to generate momentum throughout the album. Check out "Keys Open Doors" and "Mr. Me Too" to see The Clipse's lyrical prowess at its finest.

GRADES:

AZ: B
Jay-Z: B+
Snoop Dogg: B+
The Clipse: A-

Do you hate *The Cowl* staff's Picks of the Week?

Do you think you could do better?

We Challenge You!

To submit Picks of the Week, write 50 words on your favorite book, movie, and album and e-mail them to AEcowl@yahoo.com.

Be sure to include your name and class year.

Taste of the Town

with James McGhee '08
A&E Editor

La Luna
272 Thayer St.
Providence, R.I.
(401) 331-6297

La Luna means "moon" in Spanish, but La Luna on Thayer Street does not evoke Spanish culture or the moon. Entering its dining room from the cold outside, I immediately noticed that whoever designed the interior did so with artistic sensibility. The soft red-orange-black color scheme, the applied geometry in the layout of the tables, and the tapestried pillows in the booths created both an "Oh, interesting" response and an aura of warmth. Visual warmth I must clarify, as I spent my time at La Luna with more chills than pleases me. Someone needed to turn up the heat. The little candle on the table never suffices. Such is my biggest complaint, as the food, service, and atmosphere satisfied my high standards.

My time at La Luna was the first in which I enjoyed a meal without any other parties present. Therefore, we had the undivided attention of our server, Jessica. (I have noticed the terms "waiter" and "waitress" are not often applied to the wait staff at upscale restaurants, however casual the ambience. Waitresses belong at Hooters. Servers bring you food.) So our server Jessica poured us water and then left us the pitcher. Now the restaurant were full



TIM PISASICH '07/The Cowl

she probably would not have done this, but what a fabulous idea. I have complained in the past of the small size of the water glasses and the constant need to have them refilled. Leaving a pitcher at the table solves this problem.

Usually I cannot find reason to comment on the first course—the bread—but La Luna offers olive oil sprinkled with salt and pepper in which to dip the bread. Simple, but when was the last time table bread had so much flare?

We ordered La Luna's "famous" garlic

rolls. One of my pet peeves is restaurants that advertise on the menu a certain appetizer or entrée as "famous." Garlic rolls just can't be famous like, say, Michael Jackson is. Even when I travel to the backwoods of New Hampshire or Maine, I find the local diner has a "famous" something or other. Although I wish they would remove the preceding "famous," I enjoyed the cheese covered and filled garlic rolls, described accurately by my friend as "potent" and "wicked good." I kept thinking "instant heart attack," but that's normal

for me.

If La Luna had a napkin suggestion board like Raymond Cafeteria, I would ask for a wider selection of entrées. Under the "entrées" section of the menu there are only three meals, although the "pizza," "pasta," and "sandwich" sections also provide options for dinner.

The oven-roasted pork tenderloin (\$17.95) is topped with a black-currant Port sauce and raisins. I hate raisins, but they don't poison the pork's taste at all if you fork them aside. The chicken parmesan (\$10.95) is the cheesiest chicken parmesan I have experienced, and arguably the best. The portions, too, are sizeable.

Considering the quality of the food and the classy atmosphere, I was surprised that the pork tenderloin is one of the most expensive entrées offered; I'd figure the average meal is between \$10 and \$12. If a restaurant has affordable food who is to complain? That is one way to reason it. Another way to reason it: La Luna needs to add more gourmet selections to its menu. To its credit, though, La Luna is a new establishment. If the chefs work on expanding the menu, they could turn La Luna into a staple of dining out in Providence. In the meantime, visit La Luna for a truly tasty meal.

GRADE: B+

A bad love song for Bobby

An ensemble cast of terrific performers cannot overcome the pretensions of writer and director Emilio Estevez

BY OWEN LARKIN '07
A&E STAFF

When one gets past the phenomenal cast, impressive acting, intriguing dialogue, and the moving nature of *Bobby*, they are left with little more than a lighter wallet and a wasted afternoon. This movie felt something like drinking an O'Doul's and smoking a Parliament Ultra-Light; it simply does not satisfy.

The cast was, however, one of the most exceptional I have ever seen in a movie. Anthony Hopkins, Martin Sheen, William H. Macy, Sharon Stone, and Laurence Fishburne showed why they are all veterans worthy of note, though no one could top Hopkins. Some younger stars, such as Elijah Wood, Ashton Kutcher, Nick Cannon, Joshua Jackson, and Lindsay Lohan evened the film out, though Cannon and Jackson were the only ones to play a character of any worth.

The scenes between Wood and Lohan were more excruciatingly awkward than the love scenes in the last two *Star Wars* movies, perhaps because Lohan is trying to play a character with a bit of substance, one that is not devoid of any of the positive traces associated with humanity. I can understand how this would be impossible for such a bankrupt, vacant joke of a human being.

And this is just where the cast begins. One can also see cameos (this word is misleading, as all the parts are basically cameos) by Demi Moore, Emilio Estevez, Helen Hunt, Heather Graham, Christian Slater, Freddie Rodriguez, Harry Belafonte and a few others that you will be sure to recognize.

Most of these actors are, however, forced unnecessarily into the film. It was a bit like *Mars Attacks*, minus the killing off of celebrity after celebrity.

Oh, and in case you didn't realize, this movie has nothing to do with politics, and neither Bobby Kennedy nor one person he associated with in any way have a thing to do with the story. The movie should have been called *The Ambassador Hotel*, for it simply follows along many subplots having to do with the guests and employees of the hotel. The idea is that you become involved with these people, only to be moved because they are sad when Bobby dies. The problem is that there was no surprise in this; I knew the ending when I walked into the theatre.

The best parts of the movie were the few pieces of film from the actual life of Bobby, though none of the speeches or occurrences had anything to do with the plot of the movie. This film would have been more moving if it had simply been a compilation of these pieces of film.

This idea is that you see people from all walks of life being deeply hurt by the shooting of Robert Kennedy. I suppose the movie pulled this off rather well, but even in this they relied on the fact that Bobby was such a moving, tragic figure. I could make a movie about the Holocaust that moves people, but this is not a reflection of my movie-making abilities, but rather the exploitation of an atrocity.

Perhaps I am overstating this idea, but I will leave you with this thought: *Bobby* was written by Emilio Estevez. He was six when Robert Kennedy shot.

GRADE: C



WEINSTEIN

How many familiar faces can you identify in this crowd?: Bobby is overflowing with celebrity cameos by stars such as Anthony Hopkins, William H. Macy, Sharon Stone, Helen Hunt, and Ashton Kutcher, just to name a few.

Bobby

Directed by: Emilio Estevez

Starring: Anthony Hopkins, William H. Macy, Sharon Stone, and Demi Moore

Runtime: 120 minutes

Rated R



WEINSTEIN

Feel the rage

Brand New's new album is dark, complex, and simply brilliant



BY JESS MCCAULEY '07
A&E STAFF

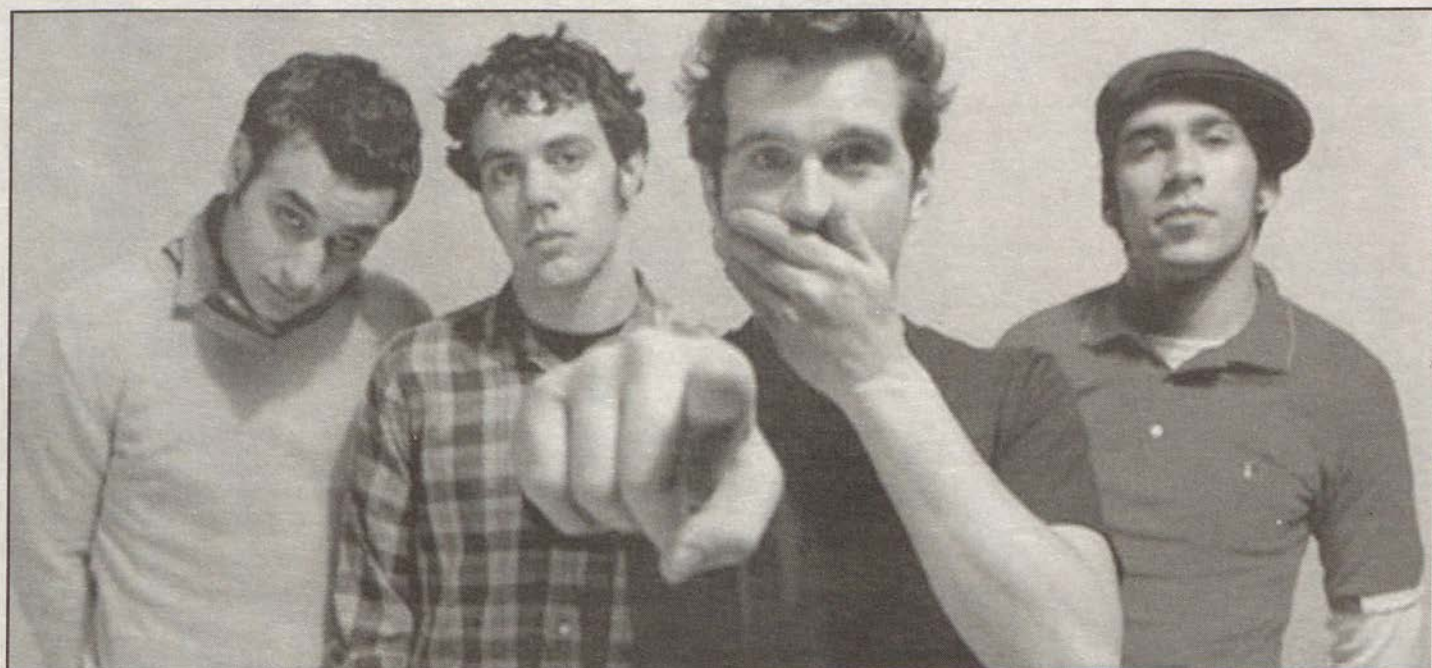
Brand New
The Devil and God are Raging Inside Me
Interscope

Patience is a virtue. Apparently, I am not virtuous (please don't tell my parents)—and neither are the legions of ardent Brand New fans that have been gnawing their fingernails in expectation of the band's first official release since 2003's *Deja Entendu*, an album that was a complete departure from its established pop-punk sound and one that blew the minds of critics, fans, and haters alike.

Arguably a seminal band for our generation, Brand New toured in support of *Deja* and then quietly disappeared into self-imposed creative obscurity, existing only as an enigmatic rumbling of hearsay and leaked demos for more than three years. It was difficult to predict the next move for the Long Island-grown quartet and whether or not it could surpass the musical luminosity of *Deja*. One listen to *The Devil and God are Raging Inside Me* is evidence enough that it can. And it sure as hell did.

Deja was an absolute musical and lyrical departure from the band's first full-length, *Your Favorite Weapon*. This shift toward more ominous musical arrangements and darker, more intimate lyrics is taken even further into the circles of some hellish dimension that permeate each and every note of *The Devil and God*.

Brand New is not looking to uplift or inspire; instead it presents an apocalyptic sonic landscape that will move and shake any listener with a soul. "Sowing Season," a completely reworked leaked demo, sets the pace for the album with lilting, bleak verse that eventually explodes into controlled chaos as siren guitars and turbulent drums swirl around frontman Jesse Lacey's beleaguered vocals. He has definitely come into his own as a vocalist, and his tortured wailing is penetrating without



ever being unbearable.

The audience is taken deeper and deeper into this dark place even-tempoed, surrealistic ambience of "Millstone" and the penitence of "Jesus," in which Lacey laments, "And I will die all alone/And when I arrive I won't know anyone."

The lyrical landscape is bleak but presented through edgy, lush vocal arrangements and a heavy musicality that makes these words powerful rather than whiney. In "Degausser," the deep and dark guitar interplay between Lacey and guitarist Vin Accardi is punctuated by a hellish chorus that sings, "Take apart your head/. . . Take apart the demon," perhaps an allusion to this struggle between good and evil that can be personal or cosmic. "You Won't Know" employs Lacey's anguished vocals to their breaking point as booming bass lines from Garrett Tierney and frantic drumming from Brian Lane provide a foundation for the searing lead guitar.

Two instrumental tracks are also included, perhaps an indication of the band's continuing progression toward stylistic and structural experimentation.

The first, "Welcome to Bangkok," is just as wrought with emotion, musical fervor, and a sinister urgency as the rest of the album; if the apocalypse has a theme song, this will be it.

"Untitled," however, is perhaps the only less than brilliant point of the album. As a little bit of a non-sequitur in an otherwise very holistic record, it doesn't stick out like a sore thumb, but it is very much an unnecessary interlude rather than its own entity. "Not the Sun" and "The Archer's Bows are Broken," with their fast-paced,



Brand new sound: For a while it seemed that the Long Island quartet might slip into obscurity, but the band's new album cements its position as one of the seminal bands of our generation.

high energy delivery and ear-splitting choruses are the only tracks even remotely reminiscent of *Deja Entendu*, specifically the crushing energy of a song like "Guernica," but this departure is key in the band's evolution.

This aggressiveness is matched and yet conveyed in the sneering immensity of "Luca," a good example of the dichotomy that exists in almost every song on the album: There are slow, softer parts, and there are loud, faster parts, but the slow parts are never just setting up the loud ones. Each moment is profoundly dark and complex in its own right, from the first

muted fingering of guitar to Lacey's last accusatory words: "It's hard to be the better man/When you're still lying/You're still lying." Lacey's pain-filled laments convey the cryptic intimacy of his lyrics with which any listener can—and will—identify. The devil and God are raging inside Lacey, Brand New, the world—and this is what it sounds like.

GRADE: A

Buy? Yes

Download: "Degausser," "Guernica"

Deanna Cioppa's

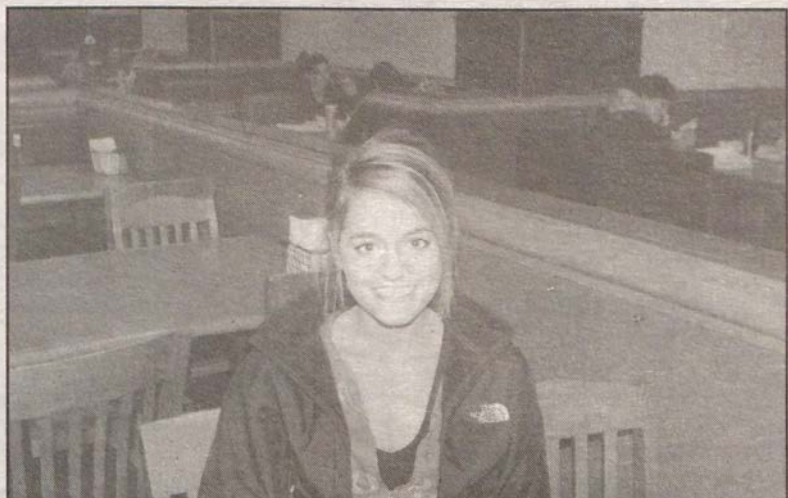


True A&E Story

"Writing for A&E curbed my cravings and supercharged my metabolism. I lost 30 pounds in 10 days! A&E, baby!"

If you want results like these, stop by *The Cowl* office (Slavin G05) and pick up an application today!

What do you dread the most about finals?



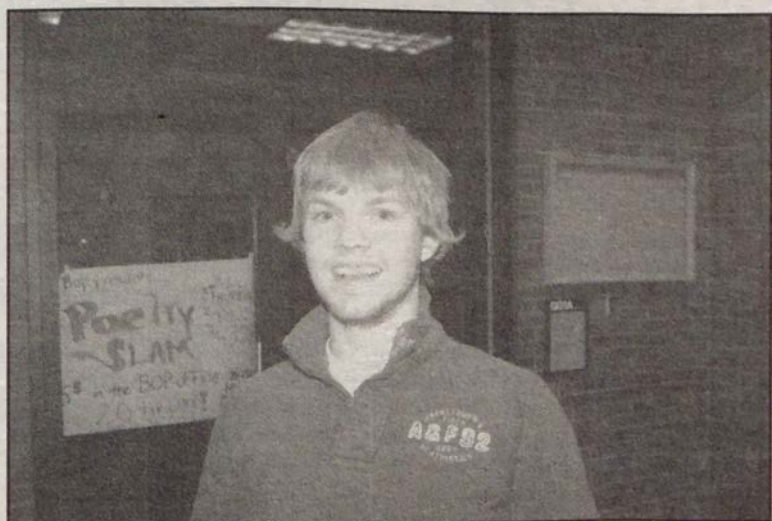
"Doing too well so people think I'm a nerd."
Ashley Rissolo '09



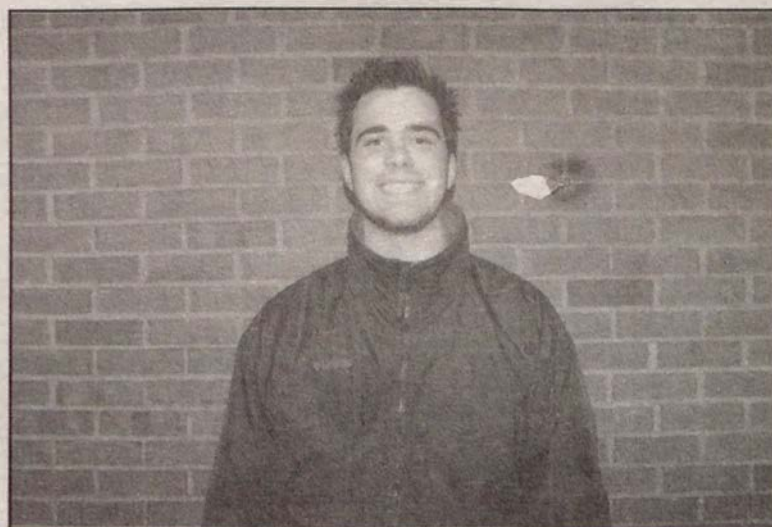
"Sleeping through them."
Christian Gunneson '08



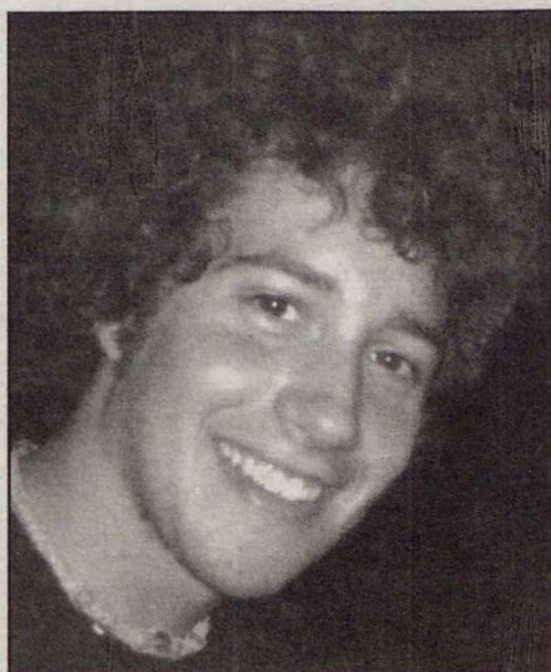
"Taking one tomorrow!"
Caitlin McCauley '08, Margaret Duval '08



"Thinking."
Daniel Doxzon '08



"Having to study all night."
John Riley '08



Having to perform roving photography
before getting to study for them.

The roving photographer

Adventures with the abominable Christmas tree

BY JENNIFER MCCAFFERTY '07
PORTFOLIO STAFF

I feel that Christmas is a holiday that no one should spend alone. It is a time when people draw close to their families and friends and re-discover the love that binds them and makes life so precious. No one should have to miss out on that. Plus, it's nearly impossible to put up a Christmas tree by oneself; I found this out the hard way.

About a week ago, my dad was in town for a business trip, so I invited him to my apartment for dinner. As we sat in my kitchen, we chatted about the upcoming holiday. He told me that the normal Christmas preparations were taking place back home. "Normal" in this case—meant that my mom had coated the entire house in hues of red and green, was baking enough Christmas cookies to feed an army, and was finalizing the seating chart for Christmas dinner, when our house would be flooded by roughly four million relatives.

Meanwhile, Dad had called each of these four million relatives to find out exactly when his or her plane was landing and had mapped alternative driving routes to the airport in the cases of snow, traffic, flight delays, car problems, gas price inflation, Elvis sightings, and elfin terrorist attacks.

My parents had also gotten their Christmas tree. Together, they had set it up and decorated it. This was their favorite Christmas preparation of the year. So, I wasn't surprised when my dad asked if I was getting a tree for my apartment.

"I want to," I said. "They're selling them pretty cheap down the street, so I'll probably swing down in the next couple days and get one."

"Who's going with you?" my dad asked. "Oh, I'll probably just go myself," I replied.

He frowned at this. "But you can't set

up a Christmas tree by yourself. It's too much of a hassle."

"Dad, I'll be fine," I said. "Really. It's not that big of a deal."

We went back and forth like this for a while, and by the end of the night, I had decided that I would set out the very next day to get a Christmas tree, set it up and decorate it myself, and then have my dad return to marvel at my amazing holiday skills. I didn't tell him this, of course. I just casually invited him over for coffee the next evening.

The following afternoon, I bundled myself up and trekked down the street to the little hardware store on the corner. There, leaning up against the front window and under a plastic awning, was an assortment of netted Christmas trees. I inhaled deeply as I approached, taking in their piney scent and smiling with memories of Christmases past. I continued to reminisce as my eyes traveled over each of them until suddenly they stopped on one of the trees.

It was huge. Somewhere in the back of my mind, a little voice of reason cautioned me that this was not the ideal tree for my tiny apartment. Moreover, there was little chance of my being able to drag it down the street and up a flight of stairs. But, the little voice was quickly drowned out by the childlike clamoring of my imagination. I had always dreamed of getting an absolutely massive Christmas tree, like the ones they showed on HGTV. Plus, my dad would be totally bowled over if I got a truly awesome tree. I would be the queen of holiday festivity. I was sold.

I got a store employee's attention and pointed out the tree I wanted. He pulled it down from the window, took my payment, and returned to the warmth of the store without another word. I was left standing on the sidewalk with the tree lying on its side. It was at this moment that I began to wonder if maybe I hadn't made the best choice, and as I grasped the trunk of the tree to drag it back home, its weight aggra-



TIM PISACICH '07/The Cowl

vated my doubt. But, I forced the thought from my head by imagining how great the tree was going to look once it was decorated. Mustering my strength, I heaved homeward.

Fourteen steps later, I stopped to catch my breath. It came out in puffs of frozen clouds, and as I gasped for air, I looked up at the sky. It was getting darker and had taken on a foreboding hue. Worried that it would start to snow, I returned to my task, intent on getting the tree home as soon as possible. Another 17 steps later, and a snowflake, the first of a sudden flood, delicately came to rest on my eyelash. And 11 steps after that, a ball of hail led its friends in smacking the top of my head.

I was exhausted, but I couldn't stop now. Gritting my teeth, I pushed onward until finally I reached my building. I fumbled with the lock, opened the door, and with a series of awkward pushes and pulls, forced the now icy tree into the tiny lobby. I collapsed on the ground next to it, catching my breath and rubbing my head where

the hail had hit especially hard. I let myself relax for a bit on the lobby floor, taking in the cozy warmth and comforting lack of falling ice. Before I knew it, my eyelids drooped and my mind went blank. I was asleep in minutes.

I don't know how long I was lying on the floor like that, curled up next to the dripping Christmas tree. The next thing I was aware of was my dad shaking my shoulder to wake me up. As I focused on him, I realized that it was dark outside, that I had a killer headache, and that I was lying in a puddle of pine needles and melted snow.

In the end, he helped me drag the tree upstairs, set it up, and decorate it. It barely fit in my living room, but it looked great. And I realized that it was much more fun to decorate it in the company of someone else. Even though I wasn't crowned the official empress of yuletide spirit, I realized that such a title wasn't worthy of Christmas anyway.



Tiffany & Earl

Making PC an emotionally stable place, one letter at a time...



Dear Kringle,

Let's think what the worst case scenario would be: Your girl giving you a delicately wrapped gift with tinsel and the like, and you are standing there, staring at her with nothing in your hands.

The best thing would be to buy a gift that doesn't give off the "boyfriend" vibe. Stay away from jewelry, candy, and personalized items. Give her something that shows that you care—but not that you want her to be the father of your children.

Stick to something simple, a gift certificate to her favorite restaurant, or tickets to an event. Keep it platonic. If you're low on funds, then make something. A mixed CD always says "I like you, but not enough to pay for anything other than a blank CD." Which might be the message you're trying to send.

I'm sure, of course, that she will like whatever you choose to buy for her, unless of course it's an artist's rendition of an anteater on a piece of slate. Yeah, don't ask; it was a weird Christmas.

Happy holidays!

Tiffany

This Week...

Happy Ho-ho-holidays

Dear Tiffany and Earl,

I recently have been seeing this girl, and things are going well. It has been about a week now and things are casual, yet heating up. My question is whether or not I should buy her a gift for the rapidly approaching holiday season. I wouldn't mind it even though I am a little low on funds, but I don't want to get too serious and be tied down with a girl who I won't see on New Years. The main issue is: I think that she is planning on getting me a gift. Advisable por favor!

—Christmas Quandary Kringle

We'd rather not think too hard during the holiday season, but if you insist...

Write to Tiffany and Earl!
AskTiffanyEarl@yahoo.com

Quandry,

I do not have the funds to supply gifts to ladies that I court. As a result, I tend to avoid "relationships" during gift giving times. I have never been seeing someone seriously enough to purchase her a gift at any of the major holidays and have in a few cases severed ties days before a birthday to avoid the large decrease in my windfall. As of now, you're not really a "couple." If you want to enjoy a high school hook-up who shows up at your "cool college kid New Year's party," then I strongly suggest not having the magic interrupted. The only time it's somewhat acceptable to purchase a gift for someone other than a long-term lover is when they get you one. But, it was her choice to buy—in no way are you obligated to repay the favor. You could always tell her that she got her gift when you paid for the dinner she consumed last time you went out. It's a win-win. On the one hand she could agree and think that you are generous to have spent the time and money to take her out. On the other-hand, she may find your comment insulting, and think are you cheap, in which case you are free for New Year's—WINNER! LOOK OUT HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES, HERE I COME.



EARL

poetry corner

The coming

BY KATIE CALIVA '10
PORTFOLIO STAFF

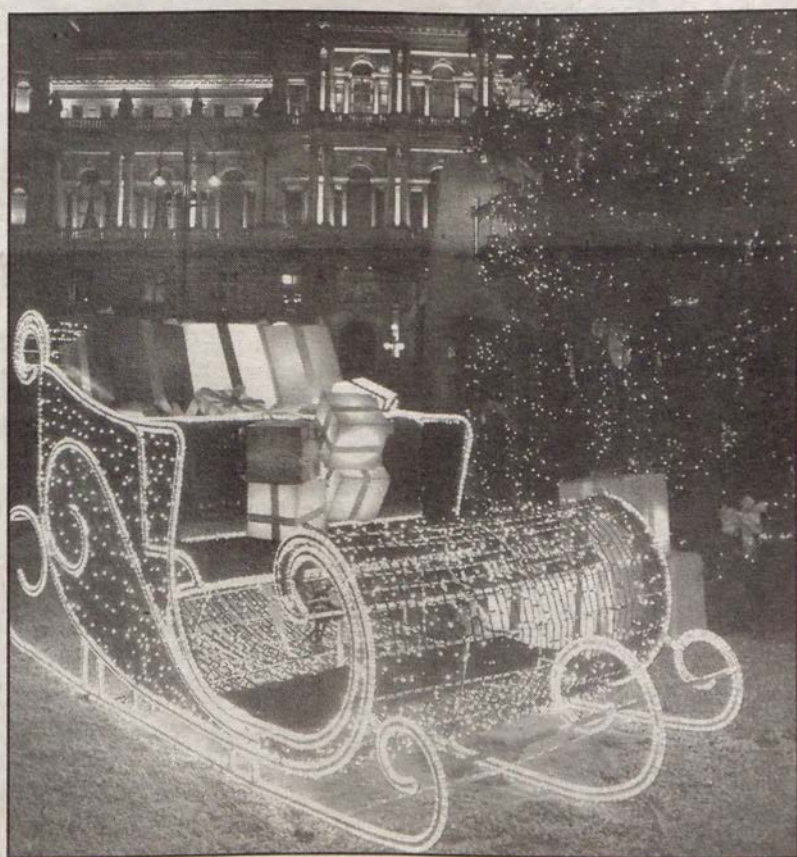
*Adeste fidelis
Laeti triumphantes
Venite, venite in Bethlehem*

Every year the summons is heard; every year the faithful come. Modern-day magi arrive, pull off overcoats, reveal festive finery. They present themselves; they are the gift of gold kneeling at the feet of the infant. Contemporary shepherds do not stay away. Awed they linger in the back pews embarrassed to be seen by the blessed babe.

*Natum videte regem angelorum
Venite adoremus
Venite adoremus*

Tonight there are no distinctions. They all unite to celebrate him. He was born for the magi and the shepherd, the king and the peasant, the righteous and the sinners. They have all followed some star. This place is so far from Bethlehem, but still the faithful come.

Venite adoremus Dominum.



TIM PISACICH '07/The Cowl

The spirit of Christmas

BY SARAH ARNINI '07
PORTFOLIO STAFF

Hear the bells call us to prayer
Open hearts to hear the news
Prepare for another year
Enjoy the moments that pass too soon

Family and friends gather together
Ornaments hang on the tree with care
Reminding us of the years passed.

Children play, carolers sing and candy canes
Hang from evergreen branches in the plaza.
Reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh,
In the distance silver bells are ringing,
Sidewalks fill with hurried shoppers,
Tinsel-covered leaves of green
Make the season glow.
Among these festive decorations
Softly falling snow covers the land.

Jesus and the Holy Family
Overhear the children's laughter
Years pass too quickly, but the season makes us young at heart.

*This week Portfolio is
spreading a little holiday
cheer with a few poems
that are sure to get you in
the spirit of the season!*

Baggage check

BY LINDSAY WENGLOSKI '10
PORTFOLIO STAFF

Crowded airport. December, late.
Last jingly flight out of Saigon. Pile on.
And they've told us we'll all have merry merry Christmases.
All that wrappin' and packin' and plannin'
For what, exactly, Mister Klaus?

There's a woman swearing under her breath pledging death and eternal
grudges to the haggard airline worker smiling through her teeth.
They both are. Polyester politeness.
Get me home get me home now now now, not in 50 minutes in five, her
mind screams.
Jingle Bells Jingle Bells Silent Night. All is calm, right?

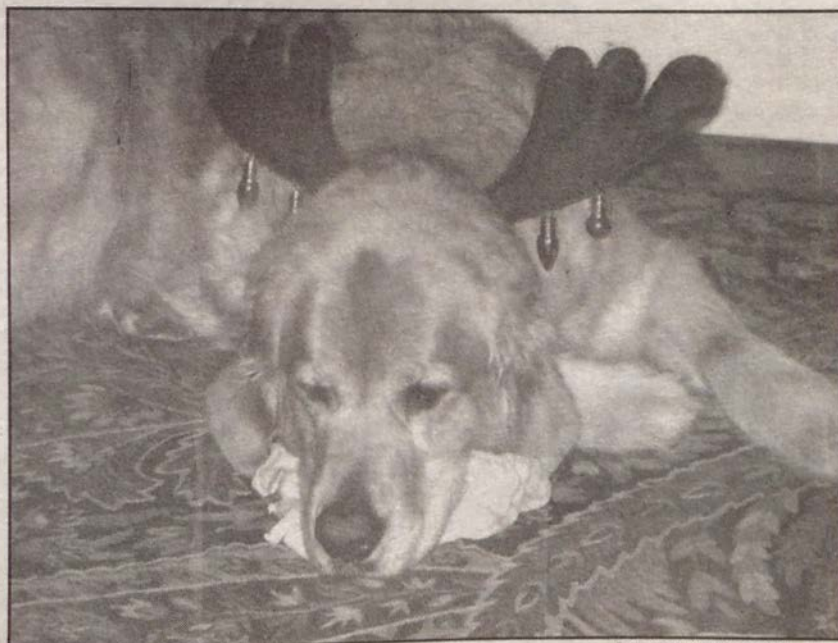
Rolling his eyes, holding three suitcases four spaces in line behind her,
A man grumbles that some people have no manners.
He wants to get home, too.

So does the airline ticket-taking lady with her snap-on bowtie and
her navy blue flight attendant knock-off vest. She wants to hug
her former flames hello and drink bone-melting drinks with her
old college friends.

And the pilots, waiting in a herd chewing cud watching the fat men the
skinny women the screaming babies pouring off flights to here from
there—

They want to get home, too.
Wherever home is, exactly.
Does the address matter?

So who's going to have a merry merry Christmas?
You?
Me?



LIA ARMATAS '08/The Cowl

Winter breaks

BY LIA ARMATAS '08
ASST. PORTFOLIO EDITOR

Inside the window fatty Cooperbear lays with his bone while mama cat sleeps on the iron
1800s heater, causing her hair to float and be trapped for the season. I contemplate Chevy
Chase uprooting a balsam fur from the hard frozen earth, and how I sawed away last winter,
knee-deep in untouched snow. I hate to think of my poor pressed leaves, hopeless and
suffocating, and clumsily colored over in crayon, on wax paper.

Over There . . .

Stories from Students Abroad

Our study abroad students say their final goodbyes

ARABIAN NIGHTS: 1,000 MOROCCAN MILES

BY RYAN DONNELLY '08
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I awoke at dawn to the first rays of sunlight streaming through the bus' side window. Looking around, I tried to shake out the cobwebs that inevitably build up when one travels many days without sleeping more than an hour or two. The journey from Casablanca to the Draa Valley takes a little more than 13 hours, and I still had two more to go. My end destination was Zagora, the last inhabitable city in Eastern Morocco. It has taken me three straight days of traveling by plane, train, taxi and bus to get to a one-road town situated on the doorstep of 3.5 million square mile ocean of burning hot sand. During the summer of 2005 I had decided that I was going to travel through the Sahara on camelback, and now, a year-and-a-half later, my goal was finally coming to fruition.

The Atlas Mountains rest between Morocco's relatively fertile Atlantic seaboard and the Sahara Desert. There are few roads that cross them, and many of those are in disrepair. However, the road to Zagora Marrakesh is commonly felt to be the surest way, described in my guidebook as being "a well-maintained road. Mostly paved and wide enough in most places for two wagons."

Since I had been traveling at night, I was startled to look out and see just how drastically the scenery around me had changed when viewed in the early morning light—jagged mountains of red rock lay to my right; the cliff of an immense canyon served as the road's left-side barrier and dead ahead lay endless miles of sand. The last two hours of the bus ride were captured through the lens of my camera, although pictures, like words, can never truly capture those feelings which accompany such experiences.

The further east you travel in Morocco, the less able you are to find English-speaking people, and it becomes increasingly important to be able to communicate in either French or Arabic. Morocco was once under the control of France, and in the bigger cities such as Casablanca, a distinct European influence can still be felt. This is not true, however in the more remote regions of the country.

Officially, the native language is still Arabic, but the language of business and

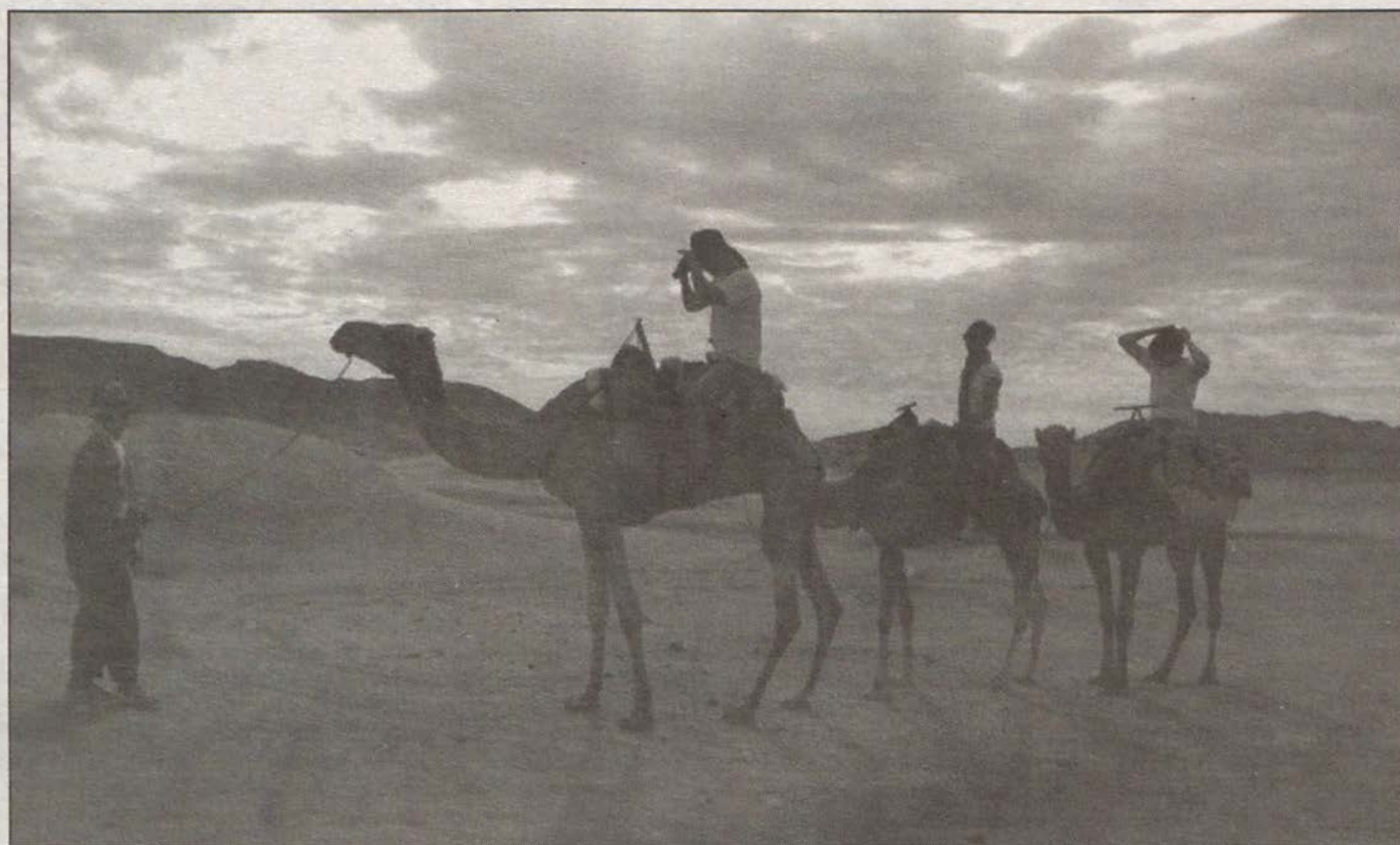


PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN DONNELLY '08/The Cowl

of politics is undeniably French.

My stay in Zagora was unlike anything I had ever experienced before. Life in Zagora today is much like it was long ago. Here, the people still wear the traditional 'Djellaba,' a long, loose one-piece garb with long sleeves and a hood, and observe the Islamic call to prayer five times per day. I quickly found that everyone shops in the main marketplace, where local vendors sell everything one would need. Of course, there are no fixed prices here—everything you purchase must be negotiated and bartered over, and sometimes it can take an hour to agree on a price difference of only two to three U.S. dollars. To you and I this is a trivial amount, but to these individuals it is a substantial sum.

Before heading into the desert I entered a shop and spent an hour-and-a-half negotiating the price of two hand-crafted daggers, whose handles and sheaths were made of camel and cobra skin. These antique blades were made by the Berbers, the native Saharan-dwelling nomadic people made famous for spreading Islam

throughout Northwest Africa. After two pots of Morocco's well-known 'Tea a la Menthe,' affectionately called 'Whiskey Berber' (say it with a French accent), I was able to negotiate a price of one Bic pen, one T-shirt, and 400 Durham (40 Euro) for the hand-made daggers. During this process I was introduced to all three of the shop owner Abdu's sons, who instructed me on how to navigate through the Sahara using only the stars and the Berber compass I purchased for my little brother.

I hired two Berber guides to take me into the desert, and we spent a few days traveling by camel through the blindingly bright Sahara. I spent my time riding, sleeping under the stars, and talking with my guides. I was even able to learn a spattering of Arabic as well as a few interesting Moroccan recipes. The two guides were ages 20 and 22. I found it fascinating to speak with a pair of guys my own age who have grown up in a culture radically different from my own. The older of the two, Hassan, had a sister who had been married off at age 15. The other, whose

name I have forgotten, loved Bob Marley, and sang "Buffalo Soldier" in Arabic throughout the trip. Neither has ever lived anywhere other than Zagora, and neither seems to have any intention of ever leaving.

I took a picture of us on our first night in the desert, and they made me promise to mail them copies when I return to the States.

My week-long trip to Morocco was a wonderful experience, during which time I managed to travel more than 1,000 miles throughout the country by every imaginable form of transportation. I could easily fill a book with all of the stories and memories from the trip, but my first glimpses of the Sahara, seen at dawn through the dirty window of a public bus, will forever be imprinted in my mind. I'm still torn as to which aspect of Morocco made the most profound impression on me: The sites, the culture, or the people. Maybe all three affected me equally. What I do know, however, is that my experiences far surpassed the high expectations that I had when I started planning a year-and-a-half ago.

Hoping that *adiós* doesn't mean goodbye forever

BY ERICA CARROLL '08
PORTFOLIO STAFF

As the Christmas season approaches, so does my return to the United States. With only a few short weeks left for me in Spain, it amazes me to think where the time has gone. When I first arrived in Sevilla, four months sounded like an eternity. Now I find myself wishing I could somehow put off my imminent departure.

It's not that I don't miss my family and friends—because I do—but my study abroad experience has exceeded any and all expectations that I had before coming to Europe. It would be nice to be able to extend the visit a little because who knows if and when I'll be able to come back. Also, the more I think about it, I'm not sure how I'll readjust to life at home. That probably sounds laughable, but it is true to a certain extent. It's the little things really.

First of all, I'm going to have to stop playing with the Monopoly money they like to call Euros. It's so much easier to keep track of multi-colored bills in varying sizes than monochrome dollars. But, the exchange rate is not something I will miss.

Walking long distances is no longer a deterrent for me. I can't really call walking from Harkins Hall to the Smith Center for the Arts in 10 minutes a hardship after having to walk 40 minutes one way to get from my apartment to school every day. It's taught me lessons in patience and time management—both of which I needed badly, although I never broke myself of that terrible speed-walking problem.

“ I love this place too much, so staying longer would probably make it harder to come home, not easier. ”

I think I may have to re-learn how to drive a car. I was never going to get any awards for my chauffeuring skills to begin with, but four months out of practice might mean I'm a little rusty. Dodging the crazy drivers—especially the ones on Vespa who seem to think that traffic signals don't apply to them and that the sidewalks are in

actuality just an extension of the main road—might get me some points in the defensive driving department, though.

The concept and value of time here are different in general. Eating dinner any time before 9:00 p.m. just seems wrong. (Maybe Ray cafeteria could extend its hours?) Couples can be seen pushing their infants and toddlers (who are wide awake) in strollers at all hours of the night. If you start your night out earlier than 10:00 p.m. or 11:00 p.m., how are you supposed to last until 6:00 a.m. or 7:00 a.m. the next morning? Going out for coffee or *tapas* with a friend can turn into a two-hour break or longer if you're not careful.

No one's in a hurry, and it's almost harder to get the bill from the waiter than to be served sometimes. The siesta still exists, and if you want to buy anything in the afternoon between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., don't expect to have much luck. All the stores are closed on Sunday, too. It almost forces you to relax. There's a lot less pressure to be pinned down to certain time constraints. Unfortunately, the due dates for my final papers don't have that same flexibility.

I won't have a host mom to do my laun-

dry every week, clean my room or make home cooked meals twice a day anymore. It was a little weird for me at first to have all these things taken care of, since I'm used to doing it myself, but I soon learned to take advantage of this rare opportunity. If I were to ask my mother to wash my clothes, she would surely laugh in my face.

The weather will be a rough adjustment. Sevilla is the hottest city in Europe. It's over 100 degrees Fahrenheit in August, and now in December, the temperature barely dips below 60 during the day. The city hasn't seen snow in more than 50 years. Personally, I don't think it's residents are missing out.

I've been warned about reverse culture shock when coming back to the United States. Somehow I can't really envision my reaction upon arrival being extreme, but I do know that I'm not ready to leave. I love this place too much, so staying longer would probably make it harder to come home, not easier.

Studying abroad has been the best experience of my life, and I know that the lessons I've learned here will be ones that I'll always carry with me, no matter where I end up in life.

Not all roads (or planes) lead to Rome

BY MELISSA SILVANIC '08
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Traveling is never an easy task, is it? One minute, everything is running perfectly smoothly, and the next, absolute chaos erupts. Here in Prague, our school recently had a fall break. A group of friends and I decided to take a vacation. Our decided route began in Barcelona, continued on to Venice, and ended in Rome. We booked tickets with Ryan Air and Smartwings, which are discount airlines that only fly within Europe. We also booked two hostels and a budget hotel in advance. Sounds simple, right?

STUDY ABROAD

The trip to Barcelona went extremely well. The flight even arrived 25 minutes early, and the pilot received an enthusiastic round of applause. Discount airlines are quite the experience. They each fly the

same exact route daily, and the schedule never changes. Seats are first come, first serve, and the tickets are often handwritten. Drinks and snacks are only available if you want to pay for them, which is quite a letdown. All in all though, the entire process seems to run relatively smoothly.

Barcelona is one of the most beautiful and interesting places I have ever seen. We spent several days lounging on the beach and swimming in the Mediterranean. We took a bus tour around the city and saw the Olympic Village from 1992, the many various churches throughout the city, including the unbelievable Sagrada Familia, and some of the amazing Gaudi architecture. We also went to the Picasso museum; one of the most impressive things I have ever seen. The museum was full of Picasso's early work, which was extremely meticulous and very different from his later, more abstract works.

We went on to Venice, although our budget hotel was not exactly The Ritz. Complications began to arise on our journey from Venice to Rome. We woke up at 5:00 a.m. to catch a water taxi to the bus station. With lots of running, we made it just in time. We took an hour bus ride to the Ryan Air airport, which is quite similar to a suburban garage. As we awaited the plane, we planned our three-day excursion to Rome with excitement. We were due to arrive at 9:00 a.m., so we had a full three days to explore. The next thing we know, five minutes before the flight, it was suddenly cancelled. Absolute panic ensued and my previous assumption that budget airlines always ran smoothly immediately vanished. The five of us split up in different directions. Two people grabbed the luggage, and the three others ran to the front of any line they could find. I have never seen such a hectic sight, especially at 7:30 a.m. Lines were forming to nowhere,



TIM PISACICH '07/The Cowl

and people were getting smacked left and right with backpacks and rolling bags. Screaming voices in dozens of different languages filled the air. Thankfully, we had been chatting with two young Canadians who happened to speak some Italian. They decided the best solution was to take a train to Rome, and since we had no better options, we followed along. It is easy to trust strangers in stressful situations.

They led us to the train station and bought a group ticket to Rome. We then began to wait around for eight hours in the small town of Treviso. The two Canadians split up with us until our time of departure later that afternoon, and of course we began doubting ourselves. They were two of the nicest people I have ever met, yet we suddenly remembered them asking us if they could put their knives in

our luggage. How many times have I been told not to take sharp, foreign objects from strangers in an airport? Needless to say, we did it anyway. They also had about \$50 from each of us because they held onto the group ticket. They of course turned out to be harmless and the most helpful people I have ever encountered, but who could have really known? We were thankfully in the right place at the right time. We finally arrived in Rome at 1:00 a.m. and ended up having a wonderful time. We saw the entire Vatican, the Coliseum, the Forum, and walked through most of the city. We're now safe and sound in Prague for the rest of the semester. If it weren't for the Canadians, I would probably still be in my budget hotel in Venice trying to say hello to the gondola drivers as they paddled past our window.



MELISSA SILVANIC '08/The Cowl



MELISSA SILVANIC '08/The Cowl



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK EASLEY '08/The Cowl

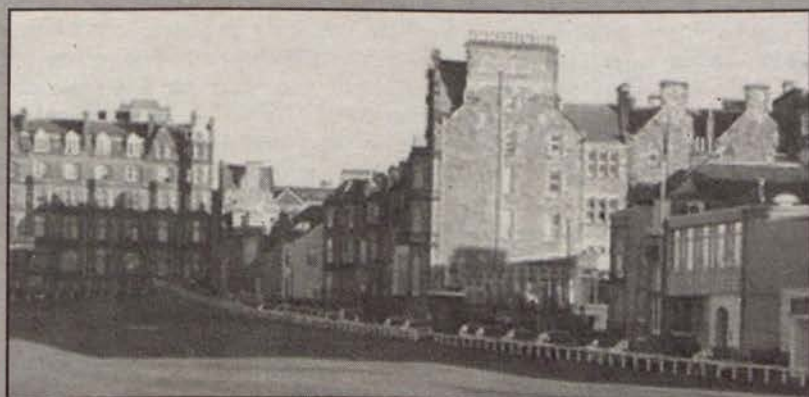
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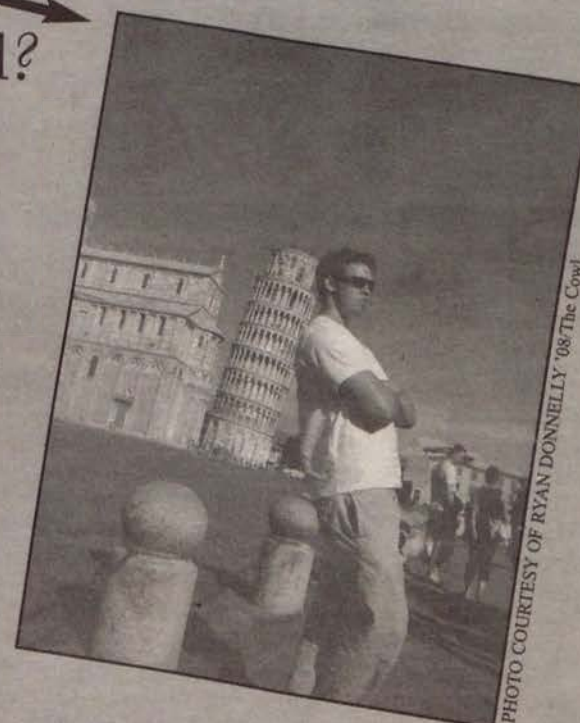


PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN DONNELLY '08/The Cowl

The splitting of the charcoal tree

BY MEGAN BISHOP '07
PORTFOLIO EDITOR

It was hard to forget the day that tree split down the middle. Half the branches to the left, and the others to the right, like two wilted dandelions extending from the same

SHORT STORY green root. Casey still remembered the cracking sound it made, like a gunshot through the thick July air. She could still feel the wet dirt between her fingers, as she sat in the grass and clawed into the earth beneath, like she was holding on for her life, and the decaying beetles beneath would help her to survive.

It was Jill's idea to go out into the woods to meet their friends Frank and Beans. Casey blamed hormones and their ability to cloak reality, like magicians who try to hide their elephants and assistants dressed in sparkling leotards. Casey decided long ago that she was the rational one, always pointing out what was unsafe and in question with every situation, like uncooked chicken in salads, weird smells in garages, and hills that were too steep to climb. Jill was different, with her newly purchased perfect smile and drug store lipstick to match; she was everything Casey's exterior lacked.

"Isn't it supposed to rain tonight?" Casey asked, sitting on the floor of Jill's bedroom two weeks into summer vacation. Casey and Jill had been friends since childhood, an arranged friendship she always called it, marked by convenience and necessity. Casey had a pool in the summer, Jill had a house at a ski resort for the winter, and each was always available to fill the friend quota during vacation and family events. Their likes and dislikes, though similar around age 7, had shifted in the past few years.

"Trust me," Jill said smirking, as she knelt on her plaid bedspread, "Frank and Beans want you to come. And it won't rain. Me and Dr. Mel are, like, on the same mental plain."

Casey wasn't sure what bothered her more, Jill's reference to some mystical "mental plain," the fact that her sentence rhymed, or her perceived association with the local television meteorologist.

"That's not something I'd brag about," Casey said, picking at her chipped nail polish. "Isn't his accuracy at like 42 percent?" She looked up from where she was sitting, legs curled beneath her on the hardwood floor, forehead wrinkled.

"Will you please just come with me and stop being lame?" Jill began to push out her bottom lip and raise her left eyebrow. She intertwined her hands and brought them to her chest before falling back onto her bed. Casey didn't want to go into the woods. She didn't want to walk a mile to find some clearing the boys had made as a testament to their ability to uproot trees and bushes. But Casey couldn't think of any other reason not to go, nothing that would convince Jill anyway. She looked out the window, surveying the blue, cloudless sky.

"Promise we'll be back by sundown?"

Jill jumped up, her feet sinking into the pillow top mattress. "Yes, yes, yes, I promise!"

Casey stood and shook Jill's hand, "Otherwise, find yourself another pool to swim in this summer."

An hour later, Casey realized they were lost and all the trees were beginning to look the same.

"Doesn't moss grow on the north side of trees? Aren't we supposed to be going south?" she said, falling behind Jill on the unbeaten path in the woods.

Jill was popping a stick of Fruit Stripe gum in her mouth, the kind with the goofy zebra on the label, and ignoring the moss comment.

"You know you're basically chewing rubber, right?" Casey yelled forward, stumbling over a raised rock.

"Yup, you told me. The same kind they

use to make Goodyear's." Jill chewed a little louder.

"I mean, I'm sure it's safe. People have been ignorantly chewing it forever, but I'd just be . . ." Casey stopped talking as Jill ran ahead into the clearing they had been looking for. She spotted Frank and Beans sitting around a fire pit in chairs that soccer moms use on Saturday morning for the sidelines. Casey half expected the cooler next to them to be filled with water bottles and orange slices instead of warm beer cans.

"Want one?" Beans asked, pulling a can from the cooler after they'd all exchanged awkward hellos. Casey had laughed initially, because Beans was fat and his shaved head made him look like a baked bean.

She thought of that video in health class with the cadaver and the cirrhosis, but she reached her hand out anyway; Jill was already letting beer slide down her throat, past the Fruit Stripe gum stuck to her cheek. The bubbles filled Casey's mouth, and she swallowed hard, hoping her features didn't twitch in disgust.

"This place is awesome," Jill said, pulling the can away from

something like this? Hello! Fireworks, illegall!"

"Lighten up," Jill said, running toward Beans, yelling something and laughing.

Casey sat down with her back to the fireworks show that was about to take place, somewhat defeated. She picked up the now empty can, and threw it into the center of the rock circle.

"Want another?" Frank asked, finishing off the can in his hand.

"Nope," Casey was tired, and wanted to go home. "I think we're leaving in a bit anyway."

"You're not staying for the show? Come on, you gotta."

"It's getting dark soon, and I'm sure my family's wondering where I am," she paused. "Stupid parent stuff, you know. . ." She hoped she sounded convincing, and she even tried to throw up her hands in despair.

"You're not staying?" Frank repeated again.

Casey opened her mouth to defend her motives to the clearly deaf boy beside her, but before she could, Jill responded, out of

ory was shit. She had begun mumbling to herself, her hands clammy in her pockets, wishing Jill was steps ahead of her popping rubber in her mouth.

She ignored the first few raindrops that dripped slowly from the sky onto her exposed scalp, reasoning that they were moisture from leaves, bird droppings, or her imagination. It wasn't until a steady shower had begun that Casey started to run. The rain poured down quickly, as if with a purpose, darkening the twilight sky. She ran until she couldn't breathe, her chest rising and falling rapidly, wheezing like a 4-year old without her inhaler.

Casey's hair was soon matted to her head like long thick strings of black licorice hanging, holding water. It was then that her tears fell with the rain, mixing into a salty glaze across her cheeks, nose, and chin. She thought about science class and the lesson on acid rain and tried to keep her mouth closed and breathe only from her nostrils. Soon after, she gave up, she gave in; she was lost.

Casey leaned up against a tree, the one she supposed had the thickest cover of leaves, and continued to cry because there was nothing else to do. In that moment she hated Jill.

There wasn't even a soft rumble of thunder, enough for Casey to perk up, before the lighting struck right in front of her. She would have thought it was all imagined, because it was like something you'd see in a theme park—a defined bolt, yellow, almost purple, descending from the sky, piercing the tree just 30 feet in front of her.

She screamed, and dug her hands into the dirt beneath. The thunder was louder, like a cracked whip, a gun shot, a signal of violence. She kept her head down, curled in a ball under that tree until the rain stopped, and the sky above was dark and silent.

She never realized how quiet a forest was after the rain had stopped and the clouds drifted past. It was as if everything else was waiting, anticipating an encore. She sniffled and raised her head when she thought she was safe, surprised she was not buried under a pile of debris. Immediately her eyes fell upon the tree that had been stuck with electricity and color.

It now looked like a large V, singed just on its left half. The roots and lower trunk remained relatively intact, but four feet above the ground it split almost perfectly into two distinctly different trees. The left was singed black, its bark burnt off, but the right seemed untouched, unphased, like the Siamese twin that got away with the heart and the lungs, or the jilted friend. Casey stood up to touch the scorched bark. It was still warm, and it left a thick residue on her hands, like charcoal that painters use to create beauty. She looked at her blackened fingers, rubbing the residue deep into her skin, soaking up moisture. Her lips lingered somewhere between a smile and frown, as she lifted her right hand toward the perfect, unaffected side of the tree. She rubbed the charcoal into its bark streaking its flawless façade, it reminded her of Jill's perfect face.

Casey walked away from the tree and back into the woods, her toes squishing inside her rubber shoes. She noticed a light ahead, and began to walk toward it.

"Casssseeeeyyy!" she heard from the direction of the light. It began moving toward her, and Casey barely had time to pull her hair from her face that Jill was there in front of her, eyes puffy and red, a flashlight in hand.

"Do you have any idea how much my mother would kill me if I lost you out here. I thought you were an Eagle Scout or something!" Jill yelled, her eyes squinting like an angry mother.

Casey could smell the remnants of fireworks and warm beer on Jill's breath. She wanted to tell her that she could never be an Eagle Scout, that only boys could earn such a title and that it wasn't a bad thing. But instead she just stood there, looking at Jill's face, imperfectly scrunched and swelled. Jill reached out and hugged her, pushing Casey's narrow shoulders against her taller frame.



her mouth and surveying the landscape.

"Yeah, ain't it?" Frank replied, sitting up straight in his neon orange chair.

Jill was referring to a semi-cleared area in the middle of the woods with a small circle of rocks in the middle to serve as a campfire. A couple more soccer mom chairs were laying haphazardly near the other edge of the woods, next to an overturned cooler.

The girls took seats around the campfire, delicately sitting on half-charred horizontal logs while the boys sat above them, like kings, their bottoms free of soot and saturated rain water. Casey shifted uncomfortably as Beans, Frank, and Jill talked about normal things, like summer school and music videos. Instead, she began to count her sips, attempted to space them out as long as she could without looking like she hated her beverage. She looked toward the ground and followed an ant with her eyes as it crawled across the rocks beneath her feet. She wondered if the ant had just made the soft dirt its new home, like people who build shelter at the foot of volcanoes. It was only a matter of time before the ground shook, and the ash fell, she thought.

Suddenly, there was a shrieking sound behind her. Casey jumped up and dropped her beer to the ground; it poured into the earth slowly, falsely nurturing the life within.

"What the . . ." Casey turned, Beans was setting off fireworks by the pile of empty cans with a triumphant look on his face. Jill was standing next to her, with a dumbstruck smile across her face, and Frank still sat in his chair, somewhat proud, surveying the scene.

"That's my boy," he yelled.

Casey thought it was ridiculous for him to yell such a thing, like he was a father watching his only son bunt the ball and get to first on an error. She reached for Jill and pinched her arm.

"Do you realize we can get in trouble for

breath: "Of course we're staying. Wouldn't miss the show for anything," then, turning to Casey, "Come on Casey, they're going to have a bonfire too."

She turned and looked Jill in the eye. Under her breath she muttered, "Sundown. You promised."

Jill tossed her long blonde hair behind her shoulders, faking a wide smile, "People break promises all the time. I bet if you had another beer, you'd be fine."

"You could always just leave," Frank said motioning to the darkening woods to his right.

"Oh yeah Case," Jill said, biting her lip. "It's a straight walk back. We didn't make any crazy turns on our way here." She paused, kicking some dirt beneath her feet, "plus you've got that whole 'moss on the north side of the tree' theory. I'll be home before 10:00 p.m."

Casey realized she'd rather be stuck in the woods than drinking warm beer on wet logs.

"Fine. I'll see you tomorrow," she said, bluffing. Casey didn't look at either of them, and he most certainly did not look back to where Beans was, probably blowing off his left hand with a smile. She walked toward the woods and was sure that before she had stepped under the canopy of leaves, Jill would be right there—angry, but there.

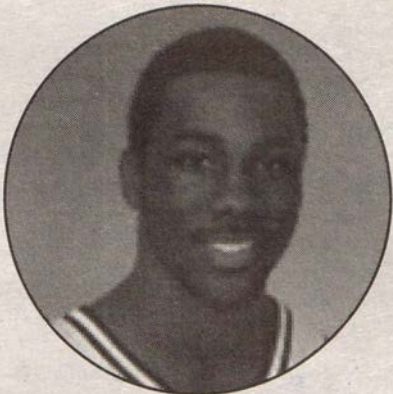
But she was wrong. Just before she entered the woods she turned to see Jill laughing and patting Frank on the shoulder. Casey wanted to throw up. It wasn't that she felt betrayed. She understood that Jill was better with boys, and that beer was something she'd be able to properly digest and swallow before she was 21. But, she didn't expect Jill to just leave her there, looking stupid, like she was some tag along brought only for her keen navigation skills and access to a swimming pool after dark. Because she couldn't turn back, she went forward, her hands reaching out to feel for moss.

Casey soon realized that straight was a relative term. She would never know if she was going in circles if there weren't landmarks for guidance. All she had was trees, and bushes, and rocks and leaves, and they all looked the same. Oh, and her moss the-

Friars Scoreboard

Scores -- Standings -- Statistics -- Schedules -- Standouts

Standouts



Weyinmi Efejuku
Men's Basketball
Sophomore—Fresh Meadows, N.Y.

Efejuku played well in both of the Friars' wins this week. He totaled a team high of 20 points against Rhode Island on Saturday and 19 against Fairfield on Monday.



Jana Bugden
Women's Ice Hockey
Senior—Cornerbrook, Newfoundland

Bugden helped Providence to a 3-2 win over No. 10 Boston College on Sunday, Dec. 3, in her 100th career game as a Friar. She recorded 22 saves and now has a 4-5-1 record in goal this sea-

Scores

Friday 12/1			
Men's Ice Hockey at Maine	L, 3-0		
Women's Basketball at Sacred Heart	L, 76-69		
Women's Swimming at Harry Anderson Inv.	3rd		
Men's Swimming at Harry Anderson Inv.	4th		
Saturday 12/2			
Women's Ice Hockey vs. Boston University	W, 4-2		
Men's Basketball vs. Rhode Island	W, 95-66		
Sunday 12/3			
Women's Ice Hockey vs. Boston College	W, 3-2		
Monday 12/4			
Men's Basketball vs. Fairfield	W, 67-50		
Tuesday 12/5			
Women's Basketball vs. Seton Hall	L, 66-52		
Wednesday 12/6			
Men's Basketball at Florida	L, 85-67		

Schedules

Friday 12/8	
Men's Ice Hockey at Boston University	7:00 p.m.
Women's Ice Hockey at Dartmouth	7:00 p.m.
Saturday 12/9	
Men's Ice Hockey at Harvard	7:00 p.m.
Men's Basketball vs. Maine	7:30 p.m.
Men's Track at Harvard Invitational	TBA
Women's Track at Harvard Invitational	TBA
Sunday 12/10	
Women's Basketball vs. Fordham	7:00 p.m.

Standings

Men's Hockey East Standings (12/5)

Team	Hockey East				Overall		
	W	L	T	Pts.	W	L	T
New Hampshire	9	1	1	19	11	2	1
Vermont	6	2	1	13	9	5	1
Boston College	5	2	1	11	8	4	1
Boston University	3	3	4	10	5	3	5
Maine	4	3	1	9	9	3	1
Massachusetts	4	3	1	9	7	4	2
Providence	3	6	1	7	4	10	1
UMass Lowell	2	5	2	6	3	7	3
Northeastern	2	7	2	6	5	8	2
Merrimack	2	8	0	4	2	12	1

Women's Hockey East Standings (12/5)

Team	Hockey East				Overall		
	W	L	T	Pts.	W	L	T
Connecticut	7	1	1	15	11	4	1
New Hampshire	6	1	0	12	14	2	1
Providence	5	1	2	12	7	6	3
Boston College	5	3	0	10	10	4	1
Boston University	3	5	1	7	7	5	1
Northeastern	2	7	1	5	3	12	1
Maine	1	5	2	4	6	8	2
Vermont	0	6	1	1	2	12	2

Friars lose games but not heart XC: Two All-Americans

RYAN HOLT '09
SPORTS STAFF

It has been up and down so far in this young season for the Providence College Men's Hockey Team. On Friday, Dec. 1, the Friars traveled to Maine to face the No.

MEN'S HOCKEY

3 Black Bears. They played well, out-shooting the Bears 30-24, but came up short in the scoring, with a 3-0 loss.

"We played all right," said senior co-captain Tony Zancanaro. "They have a great goaltender—he really stood on his head."

Maine's goalie Ben Bishop, one of college hockey's tops, indeed had a great game, making 30 saves.

"We did some good things," said head coach Tim Army. "We played a decent game. We fell behind 2-0. We had some good chances that we didn't capitalize on."

Senior co-captain Colin McDonald agreed, saying, "We played well, we had some good chances, it's the same story."

So far this year, it has been a season of missed chances and tough losses for the Friars. The loss drops the Friars' Hockey East record to 3-6-1, which would likely surprise anyone who has seen them play this year. Most nights, they do out-hustle and outshoot their opponents. Many of these nights, however, something happens and they come up short.

Most teams would look at such a record and become discouraged and negative. That is simply not the case with this team. In conversations this week with the coach and his co-captains, nothing but a positive outlook was portrayed.

"As absurd as it may sound, we're as much in the hunt as we've ever been," said McDonald. "There are a lot of games left."

"We're not pressing the panic button," said Zancanaro. "We're positive, we've been playing well."

"The body of our game is better than our record," said Army. "We can compete with anyone, and we've shown that."

It is true; there are 19 games left, 17 in the conference. So much can happen in that time.

Some would say that this team has been the victim of bad bounces and overall bad luck. While at times that may be the case, the team does not agree with that assertion.

"That's the easy excuse," said McDonald. "At times in the games, we don't play well for five minutes, and they capitalize. We need to play a full 60 minutes."

McDonald is correct here and anyone who has seen this team play should agree with him. Many times, the Friars will play a great game, but there will be a span of a few minutes where it just isn't there. So far, their opponents have struck and struck hard during those lapses.

The other problem is scoring. Everyone knows the Friars can shoot, and they certainly can score. They have out-shot most of their opponents this year, but at times



COURTESY OF SPORTS INFO

Despite hitting a rough patch of late, the Men's Hockey Team continues to play hard and stay positive. The team hopes to reverse its luck against Boston University on Friday, Dec. 8.

they just have not scored.

"We haven't capitalized at times this year," said Army. "We just aren't taking control at those key moments."

So what are the Friars doing to fix these issues?

"Stay with it, encourage not discourage them," said Army. "We need to keep working hard. We need to play with more urgency, desperation."

The previous Sunday, Nov. 26, the Friars had dropped another tough game, this one to crosstown rival Brown. The Bears jumped out to a 2-0 lead with two goals coming in less than five minutes midway through the first period. It was an opening stanza that saw the Bears outshoot the Friars 21-7.

The Friars responded early in the second. McDonald scored less than three minutes in off of assists from freshman David Cavanagh and sophomore Cody Wild.

Unfortunately, that was as close as PC would get. The Brown defense held strong through the rest of the second and the entire third period, as the Bears held on for the 2-1 win.

Despite the losing streak, the Friars remains optimistic.

"We lost a little of that hunger earlier," McDonald said. "We need to get it back. We haven't proven ourselves this year. People doubt us now, and we play our best when they do."

Their positive attitude says much to the

character of this team. They are still in the hunt in the Hockey East. If they are able to do these things and catch a little fire, who knows how well they will do.

On Friday, Dec. 8, the Friars travel to perennial power, and current national No. 11, Boston University. Just last month, the Friars traveled to Agganis Arena and played tough, but came out with a 1-0 loss.

"We know we can beat them, we did it twice last year," said McDonald. "We gave them a good game earlier this year."

"We want to outplay and outwork BU this weekend," said Zancanaro.

After BU, the Friars take a break from games for finals week and return to action close to the Christmas holiday.

"The break may do us some good," said Army. "Last year I didn't like it because we were on a roll at that time. This year it may be what we need. We should come back refreshed."

Once the Friars do get back, they will travel to Wisconsin for a Holiday tournament. They will first play No. 20 Lake Superior State. If they win that, they will play either former national champion Wisconsin, who like the Friars, are off to a tough start, or No. 17 Clarkson, a team the Friars have already played.

The Friars have a long way to go this year but there is still enough time to turn the record around and make some noise both in Hockey East and in the national picture. Don't give up on these guys; they certainly have not given up on themselves.

continued from back page

to have as a graduating senior. We were happy with our performance at the NCAAs but we were hopeful for top five. Unfortunately, injuries and other factors presented that, so we were satisfied to finish in the top ten."

Also contributing to the top ten Friar effort were freshmen Krystal Douglas, and Breffini Twohig, sophomore Katie DiCamillo, and senior Meghan Owen. Douglas finished 80th with a time of 21:55.

Twohig completed the race in 93rd place with a time of 22:05, followed by DiCamillo in 96th with a time of 22:07. Owen rounded out the Friar effort posted a 112th-place individual finish in a time of 22:13.

Despite its strong efforts, Stanford won the Women's NCAA Team title with 195 points to Providence's 301.

"We wanted to finish in the top 10 at the meet and we were happy coming in at seven," said senior Meghan Owen. "Personally, I have been on and off for the majority of the season. Being injured, I wasn't at my best but I wanted to finish in the top five of our team's finishers, score, and help the team get in the top 10."

Leading the men's team was senior Martin Fagan. Coming off his Big East title victory, Fagan was hopeful for a strong performance at the NCAAs. After finishing 16th last year, Fagan hoped to not only better his time but come home with another title.

"I honestly thought that I had a shot to win the race," said Fagan. "Unfortunately I fell a little short. I did better than I did last year and was happy with a top 10 finish."

Fagan was able to better his performance from last year and finished in fifth place with a time of 31:01 earning him All-America honors for his second straight season.

The men's team's ninth-place finish was the team's highest since 2000.

"This was the best team we have had since I've been on the team," said Fagan. "I have been able to make steady progress throughout my time here at PC. I wanted to win the NCAAs but was able to win the Big East title so I am happy with the way the season has gone."

For the majority of the team, there is nothing remaining of its fall cross country track season but memories; however, for Fagan, Hoban, Twohig, and Mary Cullen, another opportunity has presented itself. The four will compete in the European Cross Country Championships in San Giorgio, Italy on Sunday, Dec. 10.

"I hope that I am able to get another top 10 finish at the Euro Championships," said Fagan. "I am not in the best shape right now having just run the NCAAs, but I am hopeful."

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FRIARS Update

A recap of the week in Providence sports

Konopka looks to score at MLS Combine

Providence College is not a school known for spewing out professional soccer players. In the MLS's short 10-year history, only current PC Head Coach, Chaka Daley, has played for both Providence College and the MLS. Daley signed as a free agent with the New England Revolution back in 1999.

Aside from Daley, no player from PC has ever played in the MLS, let alone been drafted directly out of Providence—not during the MLS's College Drafts from 1996-1999 or during the MLS's Super Drafts from 2000 to the present, which include both foreign and collegiate players. However, senior goalkeeper Chris Konopka looks to change all of that, as he has been selected to participate in the 2007 Adidas Major League Soccer Combine.

Konopka is one of 58 players, only five of which are goalies, who were selected by a panel of both Division I and MLS coaches to participate in the combine. The combine will take place at Lockhart Stadium in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. from Jan. 5-8, just four days before the MLS draft on Friday, Jan. 12, in Indianapolis, Ind.

While participation in the combine won't necessarily guarantee Konopka a spot in the draft, being selected by the committee is a promising harbinger. Of the 48 participants in last year's combine, 23 of them were selected in the MLS Super Draft, or about 48 percent of the participants.

To further his chances of becoming a pro, Konopka's agent Patrick McCabe acknowledged that Konopka has set up a trail with Cardiff City, a club team over in Wales, and may also look to obtain a Polish passport.

During his final season at PC Konopka

posted a 0.94 goals against average, six shutouts, a .787 save percentage, and was selected to the All-Big East Second Team.

Madl named regional coach of the year

A month after being named Big East Coach of the Year, Providence College Field Hockey Coach Diane Madl scooped another honor, earning the Dita/NFHCA (National Field Hockey Coaches Association) Coach of the Year honors for the Northeast region on Wednesday, Dec. 6.

Madl engineered a remarkable turnaround for the Friars, who finished 18-4 this season after last year's 6-13 record. This year marked Madl's fifth with the Friars, who finished as Big East regular season co-champions and were ranked as high as No. 11 in the country.

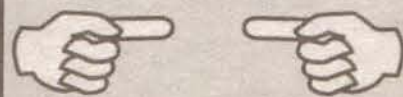
Maduro garners All-America honors

The National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) announced its annual All-America First Team on Friday, Dec. 1, and PC junior midfielder Ryan Maduro found himself just the second Friar of all time to make the first team—and first to make any All-America team since 1988.

Maduro finished his junior campaign with just three goals and four assists, but the honor recognizes his importance to a young Friars squad that returned little of its offensive spark from the year before. Maduro was the engine in midfield that led the Friars to a final record of 13-7, including a 7-4 mark in the Big East and an appearance in the conference semifinals. The Friars returned to the NCAA Tournament for the second year in a row, falling to Hofstra 2-0.

—Mike Springer '08
and Kevin O'Brien '07

PCI



I think it's kind of unfair that Michigan got overlooked in favor of Florida for the BCS National Championship game. Shouldn't we just have a playoff? Who do you guys think should be playing Ohio State on Jan. 8?

—John Nabozna '07

With USC's surprising loss to UCLA on Saturday, Dec. 2, the battle for a place in the championship game came down to two teams: Florida and Michigan. With their 12-1 record, the Gators seemed the favorite to play the Ohio State Buckeyes; their only loss came in the middle of October, to No. 11 Auburn. Both Florida and Michigan had 7-1 conference records, but Florida won its conference title, while Michigan tied for second with Wisconsin. During the regular season, Michigan, a Big Ten team, got its chance to play Ohio State, a Big Ten team.

Voters also had to take into consideration each team's schedule. Though some may argue that outside the SEC, Florida did not play tough teams, some of its SEC opponents were strong. The Gators beat Arkansas, a team who in the SEC West finished 7-1, 38-28. Top to bottom, the SEC was the strongest conference in the country. The Big Ten did have solid teams, but the SEC teams constantly faced tough teams. Florida beat No. 9 LSU, a 10-2 team, and No. 8 Arkansas a 10-3, which gave Florida the SEC title. On the road, Florida beat No. 13 Tennessee, Vanderbilt, and Florida State. The BCS decision process has long been debated and will continue to be so. Florida Head Coach Urban Meyer said it best in a quote from the BCS web site: "It's an imperfect system. If you want a true national championship, the only way to do it is on the field."

—Beth Lenehan '08

Remember, Cow/ readers . . . we want to hear from you! Just e-mail your questions either about PC sports or sports in general to cowsports@gmail.com, and we'll do our best to answer them—and stir up a little debate if we can!

Thanks,
The Cow/ Sports Staff

Who deserves the second spot in the BCS title game on Monday, Jan. 8? That decision became harder to make after USC's loss to UCLA last Saturday. However, the debate didn't have more than a day to last before Florida was picked to play Ohio St. in the BCS title game. Florida, who won the SEC, definitely has an argument to support its inclusion in the title game.

Michigan, however, has a better argument. I understand that this isn't even the best team in the conference, and I also understand that the Big Ten does not hold a candle to the SEC. But the Wolverines have proven with their play on the field that they are the second best team in the country. Besides all of this, Florida did not do enough in my mind to leapfrog idle Michigan. What has Florida done, besides win its conference, that Michigan hasn't? Michigan went to South Bend and pounded a pretty good Notre Dame team. Florida's best road win was a close one over its main rival, Tennessee, who eventually fell off at the end of the season. Florida may not even be the best team in the SEC, especially with how LSU has played lately.

Michigan went on the road to Ohio St. and was one late hit away from winning the game. Michigan has shown in its games this year that it is deserving of the national title game. While I don't want to see a rematch, I do think the BCS got it wrong in this case.

—Chris O'Connor '07

Basketball: Showing promise

continued from back page

ance with 17 points.

"I think that I have to become more of a leader," said Marandola. "Sometimes I put in a good performance, sometimes I don't. I need to do better, both on and off the court."

Despite her self-critique, Marandola is off to a strong start. She has already compiled four double-doubles and three 20-point games. She was named to the Big East Honor Roll on Monday, Nov. 20.

The Friars won their first six games before losing 72-68 to the University of North Carolina Greensboro on Saturday, Nov. 25.

Starting out 7-3 is a real accomplishment for a team that had eight wins all of last season. So what made the difference?

"I think we're a lot faster," said Marandola. "I think we're just working more together and we have a little more

talent this year."

And luckily for the Friars, their talent is young. Snyder is the only senior this year on a team that has been starting sophomores and freshmen due to injuries. Cournoyer has already made her presence known on the floor, contributing 24 points in a win over North Carolina A & T on Friday, Nov. 24, while Holmes is the only Friar aside from Marandola to have registered a double-double so far.

With six freshmen and four sophomores, the team is young; and with youth comes a learning curve. However, the Friars have shown a lot of promise early in the season. If they continue to work together and score, a trip to the Big East Tournament could be within reach. They know the road will not be easy though.

"You can mark this down: All of our games are going to be challenges," said Seymore.

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Rammed out of proportion McGow: Onto a new challenge

RYAN HOLT '09
SPORTS STAFF

Sour grapes: That is a great way to describe the sentiments of URI President Dr. Robert Carouthers following the university's 29-point loss to the Friars

OPINION

Saturday, Dec. 2 at the Dunkin' Donuts Center. In the days following the game, Carouthers has complained about the behavior of PC's student section and the overall atmosphere.

Yes, some bad things did happen Saturday afternoon. The URI mascot was assaulted by an unknown person. Of course, that act was disgusting and despicable. No one knows at this point who it was; it may or may not have been a PC student. Our mascot ventured on the court while URI's cheerleaders performed. Some found that incident comedic, while others found it inappropriate. Either way, the student who dresses as the Friar has already apologized via a letter printed in the Tuesday edition of *The Providence Journal*.

Carouthers further complained of the conduct of the PC student section; of their cheers, their jeers, and a flyer distributed among the students. While some of what was said by the section was not exactly nice or most appropriate, it is to be expected of college students during a rivalry game. Carouthers even complained about the actions of John Dolan, known more commonly to Friar Fans as "Big Red." Dolan did nothing wrong. He did what he usually does: Gave away prizes, introduced the band, cheerleaders, dance team, and tried to liven up the crowd.

It is not as though his school is exactly without fault here. In the past, URI students have tried to initiate fights with PC fans. Their cheerleaders did a cheer when a member of PC's basketball team, sophomore Jonathan Kale, was on the floor injured (he would later return). An entire section of intoxicated and unruly URI students was ejected from the arena Saturday for repeatedly shouting obscenities and for

overall bad behavior. Just last year, at the Ryan Center, URI fans stood behind the PC bench waving "wife-beater" shirts at a member of the team, calling him the same.

All of these acts were inappropriate, and in the last case downright wrong. Where was the outcry, or in this case blatant whining, from our administration? Thankfully, it wasn't there, and PC allowed the game to be played and moved on from there.

Carouthers needs to do the same. In an appearance on a local sports radio show Tuesday night, Dec. 5, he again pleaded his case to listeners, many of whom think he is overreacting. In the appearance, Carouthers cursed, exclaiming "BS," but he did not use the abbreviation.

“As to the student conduct at the game, Carouthers really does not have much to stand on. Even if he did, how can you control what 1,000-plus people chant simultaneously?”

Cheering and jeering happens at this annual match up. Having enjoyed it for my entire life as a native Rhode Islander, I have seen games where the crowd was much more hostile. In many of these games, I saw fights among the fans and many more being ejected from the arena.

As for the student conduct at the game, Carouthers really does not have much to stand on. Even if he did, how can you control what a thousand-plus people chant simultaneously?

The beating of the Ram was awful, and hopefully someone will eventually be caught and properly reprimanded. Our mascot has apologized for venturing onto the court during the routine, and that situation should be put to rest.

Other than that, it is time for Carouthers to stop the complaining and let the matter rest. I know it is tough to lose to your in-state rival, especially the way URI did on Saturday by 29 points, but it is time to move on. Besides, as a university president, doesn't he have better things to do?

continued from back page

is very thankful. Not only has McGow been a leading scorer in her four years, she has shown her versatility by playing both midfield and forward, both big changes from her ice hockey years, which she spent playing goalie. She has proven herself a team player, finishing among the best in Providence record books in both goals and assists. These season totals have fluctuated as she moved between playing forward and midfield.

Branford, Conn. is separated from Providence by only about 100 miles, but in field hockey terms, the two places seemed to be at opposite ends of the world when McGow arrived in the fall of 2003.

While her high school had a proud field hockey tradition, PC's program was in the midst of slump dating back to 2000, the year that marked the team's last invitation to the Big East Tournament.

Coming off a perfect senior season in which she was named to the regional All American team, McGow described her first few games at Providence as "a shocker." Going from winning every contest to struggling to keep your team in the game is a challenge. But for McGow, it was simply a learning curve.

The team has worked hard to return the program to a level of respectability. Its efforts came to fruition this fall when it captured the Big East regular season title and beat Connecticut on Senior Day, a match that looms large in McGow's mind as both a great stride for the team as well as a personal highlight, seeing as she is from Connecticut.

"Definitely not the picture perfect senior day," she recalled, thinking back on her final match played on home turf. "But it turned out to be, in a way. . . . The game kept getting pushed back [due to rain] so there was a lot of anticipation built up and frustration. We just wanted to play the game."

The Friars went on to beat Connecticut, then the No. 9 team in the country by a score of 2-1 to finish their regular season 17-3. That clinched a tie with Louisville, one of only two teams to defeat Providence before the conference tournament, for the Big East season title.

It is only fitting that McGow had a hand in both goals in her last home game, seeing as she impacted the scoring in so many games over her career. To reach the 100-point plateau, McGow averaged better than one point per game over the course of her four years, a significant accomplishment when you consider how low the score is in a typical field hockey match.

Although McGow and her teammates had many great games this season, that has not always been the case. 2006 marked the first time since McGow arrived in Providence that the Friars finished better than .500. Still, she does not regret her decision to come to PC to play Division I.

"It makes you not taking winning for granted," she said about her transition. "Even though we had losing records my first few years here, I think we were successful in the sense that we were all so close. I'm almost positive that if I went to a Division II school, I would not be as close with all of the girls because you

aren't with them all the time. You aren't traveling. It isn't as intense."

Intense is a key word when describing the commitment McGow has made to her team. Even when coming from a successful school like Branford, the change in the level of dedication required to play Division I in college as opposed to high school is huge.

Not only does the team practice on the field two hours per day—in the past the team has practiced at 5:00 a.m. or until midnight—but its members also devote a large part of their time to conditioning and running to get themselves ready to compete in a challenging conference like the Big East.

And if all the time in the weight room is not convincing of the devotion McGow has for her team, consider the travel. This year alone, the team visited Washington, D.C.; Syracuse; Iowa; and made two trips to Louisville, just to name a few.

"It was definitely an experience," she said. "Seeing all the different campuses and all the different parts of the country is something I wouldn't do had it not been for field hockey. . . . I think living on the road teaches you a lot. You get really close with who you're with."

Besides all of her in-season travel, McGow went abroad for her first time this spring on a team trip to Argentina.

"That was an eye-opener," she said. "We got to see another culture and see how much more relaxed sports are down there and more social."

Relaxed is not a word that is used to describe many Division I programs. As McGow has learned, there are many long hours that go into preparing for each game and spent waiting in hotel rooms and on buses. After four seasons of total dedication to her team, McGow, a psychology and business major, is ready for her next challenge, one that will almost certainly require the same type of commitment that her team has demanded. Following graduation in May, she hopes to continue to law school. But even though her field hockey career has ended, McGow is not ready to leave sports behind completely.

"If I could get into the sports psych field through law, or there's a lot of contract stuff, if I have the opportunity to get into that, I definitely would," she said. "Because I do love sports and I love to be around them, so we'll see. I'll try to make that a path. And one day I'd like to coach, if I get the time."

So even though her days spent on buses to Syracuse and practicing in Peterson at before dawn have ended, McGow has a lot to look forward to in the next few years. Law school is sure to present a challenge, but she has shown through four years of hard work and dedication to a program that has had its share of struggles that she is more than capable of thriving in intense situations.

And in the end, she would not erase even the toughest days of 2005, when the team had its worst finish in McGow's tenure.

"I think we'd all like to go back and try to win those few games," she said. "It was a difficult year but in a way it propelled us to have a much better year this year. So in a way, I don't think I'd change it."

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This Week in Friar Athletics:

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vs.

Maine

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@ 7:30 PM



Women's Basketball

vs.

Fordham

Sunday December 10th @ 2:00 PM

Taste of homecooking puts PC back on track

BY DREW GOUCHER '08
SPORTS STAFF

This past Thanksgiving, the Providence College Women's Hockey Team did not have a lot to be thankful for, speaking, of course, in terms of NCAA athletics. The team had just gone through a very tough leg of its schedule, already one of the toughest in the nation, and had won just one of their last eight games, a 5-3 victory over Boston University on Saturday, Nov. 18. Their last game before the holiday—a 1-1 tie against non-conference Robert Morris—seemed to highlight their offensive struggles. The only bright spot was the news that renovations of the new locker room at Schneider Arena had been completed.

Things did not get better on Black Friday, Nov. 24, either; its title was fitting and applicable to PC's disappointing 4-2 defeat at the hands of crosstown rival Brown University, which reclaimed the Mayor's Cup. At 4-6-3, PC's season was on the ropes, even though the team sported a decent conference record.

But a Sunday, Nov. 26, tilt against non-conference Niagara may have righted the ship at precisely the right moment. And it was several newcomers that led the way.

Providence wasted no time jumping ahead, as sophomore Mari Pehkonen, who scored twice, netted her fifth goal of the season a mere 21 seconds into the contest. Assisted by sophomore Katy Beach and junior Sarah Feldman, it set the stage for a four-goal "outburst," a mark which the Friars had not reached in more than a month.

Other key contributors were freshmen Brittany Nelson (first goal), and Jackie Duncan (two assists—first points). Returner Erin Normore, a sophomore, also scored in the win. The end result was a badly needed 4-0 win. It was another newcomer that stole the spotlight: Sophomore Danielle Ciarletta, who started in goal.

Ciarletta turned aside 27 shots in backstopping the Friars to the shutout win, including 14 in the first period, when Providence led by a single goal. Her effort garnered her Pure Hockey Defensive Player of the Week Honors.

"When I found out about it, I knew it was more for my team," Ciarletta said of her award. "It was bigger for me to help get the team its first shutout, which seems to have started a roll for us, especially after the first couple weeks. [The award] was pretty cool. I think my parents enjoyed it more, though."

Starting a roll is exactly what the win did. Last weekend, Providence moved back to conference action, facing Boston University and Boston College. Both games had huge ramifications in the league standings, and two wins could



COURTESY OF SPORTS INFO

Sophomore Erin Normore scored an important goal in the Friars 4-0 shutout against Niagara on Sunday, Nov. 26. This week, Providence will look to extend its three-game winning streak against Dartmouth and Harvard.

resuscitate the Friars back near the top of Hockey East.

"Obviously against BU, we wanted to finish them off in the series," said Ciarletta, who started in goal again. "We beat them once, and a second win would guarantee us the tiebreak and the season series."

Against BU, the Friars showed their resilience, responding to a 2-0 deficit by scoring four unanswered goals. The offense started from an unlikely source: Junior defenseman Caitlin Malboeuf. The goal came off a faceoff, with Malboeuf rifling a slap shot from the center point past BU's Alyse Wilcox. For Malboeuf, a stalwart and steady defensive presence, it was just her second goal as a Friar, both of which have come this year. Malboeuf's tally seemed to awake a sleeping giant in the Providence offense, which proceeded to go berserk.

Two minutes later, fellow junior Jenna Keilch, a hard-working two-way forward, lit the lamp. She won a faceoff forward, and when left unchecked, collected the loose puck and fired a quick wrist shot inside the post to tie the score at 2-2. The goal was her first of the season.

Three minutes later, senior Sonny Watrous tallied her fourth goal of the season on a play that teammates described appreciatively as a "dangle"—hockey slang for an outstanding stickhandling deke that (figuratively) undresses a defenseman or goalie, or in Watrous's case, both.

Nineteen seconds later, junior defenseman Kathleen Smith's first goal of the year added some insurance, as she cashed in to

give PC the 4-2 edge. The four goals were scored in just under six minutes.

Keilch finished with three points, including two assists, but the third period belonged to Ciarletta. She made 14 saves in the frame, including the save of the game. After kicking out a BU defenseman's point shot, a fat rebound popped right to a Terrier forward, who quickly fired along the ice. Ciarletta instinctively kicked out her pad to make a great kick save and cover the puck. All told, she finished with 29 saves and improved her record to 3-1-2.

Providence entered Sunday's game against No. 10 BC, tied with the Eagles in the Hockey East standings. Ciarletta was

given the night off, so senior Jana Bugden found herself back in nets. She responded with one of her best games this year.

After a scoreless first, BC pulled ahead 1-0. But Providence responded less than a minute later when junior Rachel Crissy buried a one-timer past BC's Molly Schaus for her first marker of the year.

A power play tally by Pehkonen gave the Friars a 2-1 advantage heading into the final stanza, but the Eagles countered with the tying goal early in the third. But with the Friars on a power play, Beach was able to come out from behind the net and score her third of the year to give PC a 3-2 edge. Bugden finished with 22 saves, and the defense did the rest. The victory vaulted Providence into a second-place standings tie with New Hampshire.

"We knew BC was ranked, but didn't worry about it. We just went in strategically and exposed their weaknesses," said Ciarletta. "We wanted to get a big win and pull ahead of them in Hockey East. It was just a game we had to win."

"It was really good to beat them, especially because they beat us last year [in the Hockey East playoffs]," Keilch added. "It's definitely big to get our first win against a Top 10 team and get some confidence going against those teams."

And with the offense starting to show signs of life at just the right time—four of the next six games are against top 10 teams—perhaps the team can work its way onto that list (the team currently has three votes, placing it third among non-Top 10 teams).

"We've been in a little bit of a slump collectively, especially against league teams," said Keilch. "It was huge [this weekend] to not just have the same people scoring. It was good to have everyone on that bench contributing."

And with Providence's tough schedule not skipping a beat, it's going to take the best efforts of everyone on the team.

Hoops: Friars open season 6-2

continued from back page

didn't knock them down. The more misses we had out there, I saw it right in front of my eyes, the more collapsed that defense became, and we couldn't get the ball inside."

The result was a gruesome offensive performance: 1-14 shooting from three-point range and more turnovers (18) than field goals (14). It marked Brown's first victory over Providence since 2001.

As ugly as those stats were, the subsequent five-game winning streak was a masterpiece of offensive dominance for the Friars. Among the most notable performances were Hill's 20 point, 20 rebound effort against George Washington (the first 20-20 for a Friar since Marvin

Barnes); Curry's career-high 27 against GW; sophomore forward Geoff McDermott's 18 points, 16 rebounds, and five assists in the BC win; and sophomore guard Weyinmi Efejuke's career-high 20 point effort against Rhode Island.

Also over that stretch, the Friars managed to dominate their opponents on the glass, averaging a rebound margin of +15. Whatever the offensive dominance of this team, the Friars know that only with a solid defensive and rebounding effort will they manage to get over the hump.

That was evident in the URI game, when the Friars forced the Rams into 19 turnovers and outrebounded them 47-21.

"We looked at a couple tapes from last year's game and we saw how bad we looked and how much they were out-hustling us, out-toughing us, and just the little plays that they were making... that made them beat us last year," Kale said after the URI game. "I feel that we made those plays this year."

Unfortunately for PC, the winning streak would come to an end with the first road game of the year. A visit to No. 7 Florida—the defending national champions—gave the Friars more than they could handle, and the result was an 85-67 loss to the Gators.

For the first time all season, the Friars were beaten on the backboards, as Florida's interior tandem of Al Horford and Joakim Noah helped the Gators to a 31-28 advantage on the glass.

On the bright side, Efejuke did manage to top his career high with a 22-point effort (to go along with 6 rebounds and 5 assists), while McDermott posted a double-double with 11 points and 10 boards.

The Friars now look to rebound in the final stretch of their nonconference schedule. A game against Maine awaits on Saturday before the Friars take a 10-day break for exams.

Home dates with Holy Cross and Harvard then come before Christmas, with a trip to Florida State and a home game with Longwood concluding PC's nonconference schedule.

PC begins Big East play on Thursday, Jan. 4, when it hosts Marquette.

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SPORTS

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DECEMBER 7, 2006

LADY FRIARS HEAT IT UP

BY ERIN REDIHAN '08
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

While the weather has been cooling off, the Providence College Women's Basketball Team has been turning up the

heat on its opponents this year. After ten games, the Friars are 7-3, even after dropping their last two contests to Sacred Heart on Friday, Dec. 1, and Seton Hall on Tuesday, Dec. 5.

The game against Seton Hall marked PC's first Big East matchup of 2006. The Friars went into the game looking to build off their relative conference success in 2005 without setting their expectations too high. After not winning a Big East game in nearly two years, PC finished with three conference wins, a total they look to beat this year.

"I really didn't know what to expect," said Providence freshman Kendria Holmes. "The past games that we've played have been pretty high intensity and they said the Big East was a lot more aggressive than non-conference games. I just went out there and played hard."

Holmes finished with 11 points, one of three Friars to finish in double figures in scoring. Freshman Emily Cournoyer led PC with 13 points while sophomore standout Chelsea Marandola tied Holmes with 11.

Providence started out strong and played a good first half against the Pirates. The Friars went into the locker room only trailing by two, 28-26.

The second half was a different story, however. The Pirates out rebounded the Friars 50-33 for the game, extending their lead to 19 at one point. The Friars tried to come back in the final minutes but it was not enough.

"We have to do a better job rebounding," said Head Coach Phil Seymore. "And taking care of the basketball. It's all little things we need to make corrections on."

"We picked it up by the end but it was too late," said Marandola. "We need to tie a lot of things together but we have our moments."

On Friday, Dec. 1, the Friars travelled to Fairfield, Conn., to face Sacred Heart. Despite 21 points from senior Shauna Snyder, the Friars lost, 76-69. After trailing for much of the opening half, Providence took a 32-31 lead thanks to Holmes, who had eight points in the first.

It was not enough though, as the Pioneers went on to outscore the Friars 44-35. Marandola turned in another solid perform-

BASKETBALL/Page 29

PC rampages by Rhody, falls to Gators

BY KEVIN O'BRIEN '07
SPORTS EDITOR

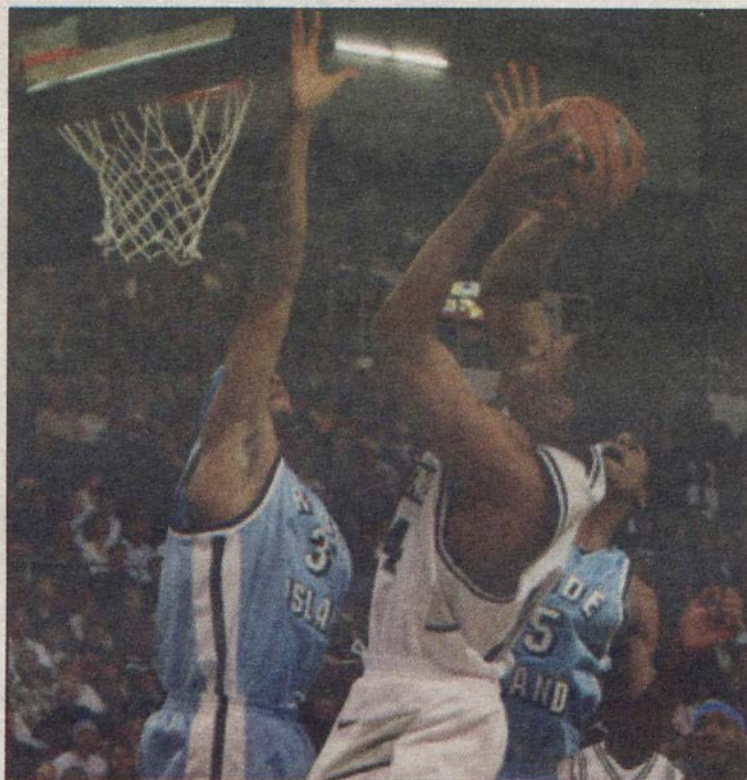
Rooting for the Providence College Men's Basketball team has never been easy. Head Coach Tim Welsh and the Friars just hope that they can ultimately make it a rewarding experience.

After a 51-41 loss to Brown that had fans in hysterics, the Friars bounced back with five straight wins, including a 73-64 victory over former Big East foe Boston College and a 95-66 thrashing of rival Rhode Island. The Friars came back to earth with an 85-67 loss at Florida, but their record now sits at 6-2—certainly a far cry from the 4-4 start of a year ago.

"We've tried to make this team kind of a hard-hat team, a smash-mouth-type team where we win the wars in the paint," Welsh said. "It's growing on me. We haven't had any teams like that here but I'm liking it. I know the paper-thin defenses we've had the last couple years with a high-powered offense and that doesn't get you wins. This team is combining the best of both."

That was certainly on display during the five-game winning streak, in which the Friars outscored their opponents by an average of almost 20 points. Still more encouraging was the fact that Welsh has the option of either going big or small with his lineup, with both combinations able to work effectively.

PC's win over George Washington on Sunday, Nov. 26,



MARY PELLETIER '09/The Cowl

Sophomore forward Jonathan Kale and the Friars won the war in the paint against the Rhode Island Rams, outscoring them 66-26 en route to a 95-66 win.

successfully demonstrated the former. Trailing 57-53 with 11:29 to play, Welsh inserted freshman center Ray Hall—all 6'11", 275 pounds of him—alongside the starting center, 6'10" and 240-pound senior Herb Hill. Hall scored four straight buckets, which sparked a 15-0 run which led the Friars to an 86-67 victory.

On the other hand, going with a small lineup has also proven to be an effective strategy for the Friars. Against Fairfield on Monday, Dec. 4, Welsh played his freshman backup point guard,

Dwain Williams, alongside the starting point man, sophomore Sharaud Curry. Williams' three point shooting (5-6 from beyond the arc) woke up PC's sluggish offense and gave the Friars a 67-50 win.

The Fairfield game brought to

light how teams could try to stop the Friars: a sagging zone that takes away the interior passing lanes and challenges the Friars to step up and make an outside shot. It's a formula that proved successful for Brown, but the Friars don't intend to let that strategy beat them again.

"We're going to see a lot of this during the Big East," Hill said. "Teams scout you so much they know everything [about you] . . . We have so many weapons, some teams might have to play zone against us to take something away."

"I don't think it frustrates us [when teams play zone]," Williams said. "It's just a different side to the game. There are teams that play man and teams that play zone, so we're going to face it. We just have to get better every day, and every team that plays zone, we just have to punish."

PC hadn't been able to punish Brown when the Bears employed that game plan, and Welsh acknowledged the team's failure in that regard.

"You've got to make some shots—and we didn't—in order to loosen up that defense," he said. "We tried to jam the balls into areas which were tight, and when we had some open looks we

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The uglier side of Rhode Island's rivalry game?

Ryan Holt '09, a Rhode Island native, gives his thoughts on the hostility between PC and URI—including the alleged attack on the Rhody mascot and the comments of URI president Dr. Robert Carouthers. See page 30.

Strong finish at NCAAs

BY GREG HARTWELL '07
SPORTS STAFF

As the Providence College Men and Women's Cross Country Teams ran out the last leg of their season Monday, Nov. 20, in Terre Haute, Ind., a true

fan of PC cross country could not help but think of the song "Titles" (from the movie *Chariots of Fire*) as performed by Vangelis. With the orchestral music blasting in your ears, a tear would come to the eye of those who thought about the mixed emotions the members of the team were going through.

On the one hand, the women finished seventh out of 31 competitors, while the men finished ninth. With outstanding individual performances for graduate student Aine Hoban and senior Martin Fagan, who each received All-American honors, it was a day to celebrate.

Still, regardless of their accomplishments, the teams strive for more, and with the conclusion of the last cross country meet for the seniors, their strong performance is nonetheless a bittersweet occasion.

At the head of the pack for the Friars was Hoban. Hoban set the pace for PC and finished in a time of 21:04, thus capturing a sev-



COURTESY OF VERITAS

Aine Hoban earned All-American honors after her seventh-place finish at the NCAAs.

enth-place individual finish. With her finish, Hoban earned All-American honors for her first time in her PC career and helped PC to its highest finish since 2004. This marks the 16th time the women have finished in the top ten.

"As a team one of our biggest goals was to win the Big East," said Owen. "Having both the men's and women's teams win was great and a good experience

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One for the books

BY ERIN REDIHAN '08
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

How do you measure a college athlete's career? Seventy-nine games started. Eighty games played. Thirty-five career goals.

Forty-four career assists. One hundred eleven career points. A Big East regular season title. Two selections to the All Big East Second Team. One trip to the Division I Senior All-Star game. The stats stand for themselves. It has been a great four years for Providence senior field hockey star Melissa McGow.

But as is often the case, the numbers are only part of the story. Some things can't be found in the box score. These are the personal aspects, the intangibles that the record books do not document. These are the details that distinguish each athlete and prevent him or her from becoming just a name in the books.

As impressive as the final stats are for McGow, who finished sixth on the all-time points list for PC, the numbers can tell only so much; indeed, they tie her to the best field hockey players in Friar history, but they ignore the bigger picture.

Sports have always been a key

part of McGow's life. She started playing sports at age five and has been playing ice hockey since then, but field hockey came later.

"Going into high school my freshman year I just wanted another sport," said McGow, on how she moved from the rink to the turf. "To keep busy, stay in shape, meet new people."

Keeping busy seems to be a continuing theme for McGow, who also played lacrosse for Branford High School in Branford, Conn. She was part of a strong field hockey program that enjoyed an undefeated season and won two state titles in her four years.

Relative success in all three sports gave her many options when it came time to make a decision about college.

"I hadn't decided what sport I wanted to play," she said. "I was applying to different schools for different sports. I didn't know if I wanted to do Division I or Division II or Division III. It kind of came down to Providence or Stonehill. . . . I decided that if I wanted to do it, I would completely do it, Division I. That's how I wound up here."

It's a decision for which the Providence field hockey program

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